

Ministers to speed up law review

Appeal court's ruling boosts Sunday trading

By FRANCES GIBB AND ROBIN OAKLEY

RENEWED government efforts to find a way of reforming Britain's Sunday trading laws are to follow a Court of Appeal decision yesterday that has rendered the existing laws "virtually unenforceable". The ruling means that hundreds of DIY shops throughout the country will be open this weekend.

Two superstores scored the victory when the three judges unanimously decided to lift injunctions that had forced stores to close on Sundays. The ruling has implications for about 100 stores operating under similar restrictions, as well as a further 100 that have been threatened with legal action.

The judges said the interim injunctions should never have been granted to the councils without their undertaking to pay the retailers damages for lost sales if the councils failed to win the legal battle. Council leaders made it plain last night that few authorities were likely to take the risk of incurring such costs.

John Major was said yes-

terday to be personally in favour of reforming the law. He has in the past urged shop owners, unions and others arguing on both sides of the Sunday trading lobby to seek a compromise that would allow the "bizarre" law that operates in England and Wales to be changed.

Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister charged with finding a compromise between the parties concerned, is now expected to be asked to speed up the consultation process, which is due to be finished in the autumn.

The prime minister said last December that he "well understood the impatience" of MPs seeking changes in Sunday trading law. The Sunday observance lobby should sit down with retailers and seek an acceptable compromise.

"There is an acceptable law in Scotland which doesn't weaken the significance in Sunday and we would welcome one too."

The last Conservative manifesto in 1987 said: "The present laws on Sunday trading contain innumerable anomalies. They are frequently flouted. We will, therefore, look for an acceptable way forward to bring sense and consistency to the law."

Ministers have, however, been reluctant to push forward a new bill after the government suffered a humiliating defeat when the Shops Bill introduced in February 1986 faced its second reading. Traders suffering the effects of the recession have been pressing for relaxation of the laws, but no new legislation is likely before the general election.

The two DIY superstores, B & Q and Wickes Building Supplies, had challenged temporary injunctions granted by the High Court to Mendip district council and Kirklees borough council that closed two Wickes stores in Huddersfield and Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, and a B & Q store in Glastonbury, Somerset.

B & Q, which has 292 stores, will now seek to be released from undertakings given by about two dozen other stores so that they can open this weekend. Texas Homecare said it was planning to open 20 more stores this bank holiday weekend.

The Shopping Hours Re-

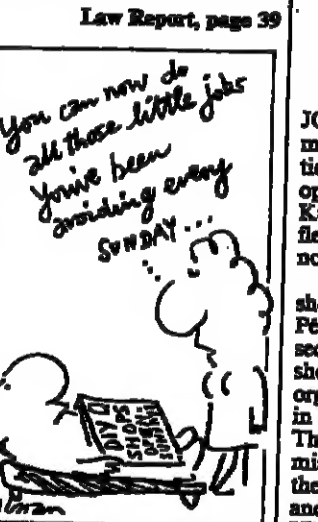
form Council estimated that another 100 stores which had given voluntary undertakings that they would not trade, would now be able to open as a result of the ruling by Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Beldam.

The opposing voices of the Sunday trading lobby agreed yesterday that the decision made it almost impossible to enforce the Sunday trading ban. David Ramsden, B & Q's controller of retail services, said the ruling was a "resounding victory" for the stores. One local authority lawyer said the restrictions were now "virtually unenforceable" and councils would have to think hard before risking money on prosecutions. Retailers have suggested that stores could have lost up to £500,000 a year in profits because of the trading restriction.

Paul Diamond, the legal adviser of the Keep Sunday Special Campaign, said the ruling undermined the efforts made by law enforcement agencies such as the Office of Fair Trading and local authorities. "We expect to see it overturned in the forthcoming House of Lords appeal case".

The legality of the restrictions is being challenged by B&Q in the House of Lords next month, on the grounds that they are invalid under the free trade provisions of the European Community. If the law lords refuse to issue to the European Court a final decision may not be made for two years.

Law Report, page 39



Down from the mountains: Kurdish refugees arriving in Zakho yesterday after weeks spent in the hills above the Iraq-Turkey border. Thousands were returning to their homes and the tent camps set up by the multinational forces

Demand by Major for UN action

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday demanded that the United Nations speed up the relief operation for thousands of Kurdish refugees who have fled to the mountains of northern Iraq.

The prime minister, in a short, sharp letter to Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, said there should be less talk from the organisation and more action in helping with relief supplies. The letter, using uncompromising language, highlighted the government's impatience and disappointment with the UN's approach to assisting with relief supplies and in the setting-up of a police force to protect the Kurds.

Mr Major told the secretary-general that there could be no slackening in the relief effort, particularly since the threat to human life would increase as temperatures rose.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the UN relief co-ordinator in Iraq, is to return to Baghdad soon to discuss Britain's plan for the deployment of the UN police force, diplomats said in New York.

High-profile prince, page 14

Kurds leave hills for 'Happy Valley' haven

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAKHO

THE month-long ordeal of the Kurds in mountain sanctuaries between Turkey and Iraq, where at least 15,000 have died, began to draw to a close yesterday as the refugees commenced the journey to Western protected safe havens which many now have dubbed "Happy Valley".

By noon, a motley convoy of smiling Kurds began to descend towards the tent city at Zakho or to head for their abandoned homes. Some travelled on foot, others on mules and tractor-drawn trailers, or piled into British and French army trucks. They also came in taxis and even municipal dust carts which they had seized to make their escape from President Saddam Hussein's helicopter gunships.

In the spectacular passes, about 7,000 Kurds passed the paths as far as the eye could see were filled with refugees who looked like columns of ants in the distance. The mountain sides rang with gunfire as Kurds fired their weapons in celebration of the latest exodus in their sad saga.

At last the descent has begun in earnest. They are now really on their way, but they need many more vehicles to help them, said Des Wassall, a British Royal Marine sergeant, whose Land Rover was crammed with

refugees. The British, French and American soldiers involved in the operation were applauded and kissed by the grateful refugees.

Kurdish guerrillas, who had formerly barred the refugees at road blocks, now waved them through. Many of the Kurdish families bristled with guns giving a foretaste of the security problems to come.

Many of the Kurds who over the last month had criticised allied leaders, notably President Bush, for failing to overthrow Saddam, were generous in their praise. But despite the human flood southwards, they remained cautious.

"Until Saddam is killed, and his Baath party murderers are removed from power, we know we will only be safe if the Western troops surround us," said a teacher. "The United Nations is not enough. Saddam will only leave us alone if he is frightened to attack us."

As the great trek downwards continued through the scenic mountain passes, the Kurds struggled to restart and repair the thousands of vehicles in which they had escaped, and which had now run out of petrol. As well as orange dustcoats bearing the legend in Arabic, "Keep the city tidy", there were also requisitioned

The price is right in the housing basement

The worth of a repossessed home is measured, not by estate agents' hype, but by the price it fetches at auction, reports Michael Horsnell

THE bargain basement of Britain's property market is in the grip of a new phenomenon as thousands of repossessed homes fall under the steady rap of the auctioneer's hammer.

A record number of 100,000 house repossessions are expected this year. Building societies and banks are showing increasing signs of moving the homes into the auction market rather than the estate agent. When a repossessed house remains unsold in an estate agent's window the householder who has handed in his keys still faces accumulating repayments on his debt.

Putting his house up for auction will save him mounting arrears but force him to accept a price up to 50 per cent lower. First-time buyers are flocking to auctions in search of bargains. Such a stampede greeted the end of the dreams of 21 householders yesterday as their repossessed homes were auctioned, by order of the mortgage, in a London hotel.

Yesterday, the rabble of homes from Cornwall to Cleveland which had not been sold in the normal way fetched up to 50 per cent less than their previous owners might have expected through an estate agent.

But the alternative to an auction is an unsold house in a property slump with big interest payments accumulating on the owners' outstanding debt to his lender, even after he has handed in the keys.

Norman Mazure, managing director of the London estate agents, Stickley & Kent, which held the auction, said that with rising unemployment the annual number of repossessions could more than double in 1991 and reach a figure which represents more than 1 per cent of the entire 9.4 million mortgage loans outstanding in Britain.

The estate agency, which has a full-time staff of five running a specialised repossession sales unit, expects to sell about 200 houses this year.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

TELEVISION

Methods Whitlock on the cries of "fool" coming from non-TV bidders in the great Channel 3 franchise battle Page 15

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SPORT

David Powell, in South Africa, meets athletes hungry to prove themselves after decades away from world competition Page 40

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Hospital cuts

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Stormont hope

Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary, began talks at Stormont that he hopes will end the violence that has claimed 2,872 lives in the last 22 years... Page 3

African disaster

Natural and man-made disasters in Africa are presenting aid workers with an almost impossible task... Page 13

14 pages of top jobs in tomorrow's appointments section

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CBI offers hope of end to slump

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE first glimmer of hope that the recession may be coming to an end came from the Confederation of British Industry yesterday. In the CBI's latest quarterly industrial trends survey of 1,300 companies, general business confidence showed the smallest fall for two years.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, welcomed the survey saying that it bore out his view that Britain should recognise the difference between backward and forward-looking economic indicators. While it was true that past indicators were gloomy, there were also signs of dramatic improvements in business confidence.

In the Commons, the government gave a new sign of optimism over economic

prospects when David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, spoke of increasing evidence that a turning point had been reached. He said there was firm evidence of the underlying strength of business and cited yesterday's CBI survey in support, saying that it showed a marked increase in output expectations.

© The Federal Reserve, the US central bank, surprised markets yesterday with a half-point cut in the rate it charges other US banks. The bank said that the cut in the discount rate to 5.5 per cent had been prompted by fear of a recession.

Parliament, page 6

Leading article, page 19

Fed details, page 25

Bangladesh cyclone kills 1,200

THE worst cyclone to hit Bangladesh in 20 years killed at least 1,200 people yesterday, left hundreds of thousands homeless, and destroyed vast areas of farmland (Our Foreign Staff writes). The storm battered 14 districts and a score of offshore islands for more than eight hours, uprooting trees, tele-

phone lines and electricity poles, a relief ministry official said. The cyclone roared in from the Bay of Bengal just before midnight on Monday with 145 mph winds. Witnesses said survivors were huddled on the roofs of their homes or perched in trees.

Country cut off, page 12

The price of being honest is 5,000 roubles

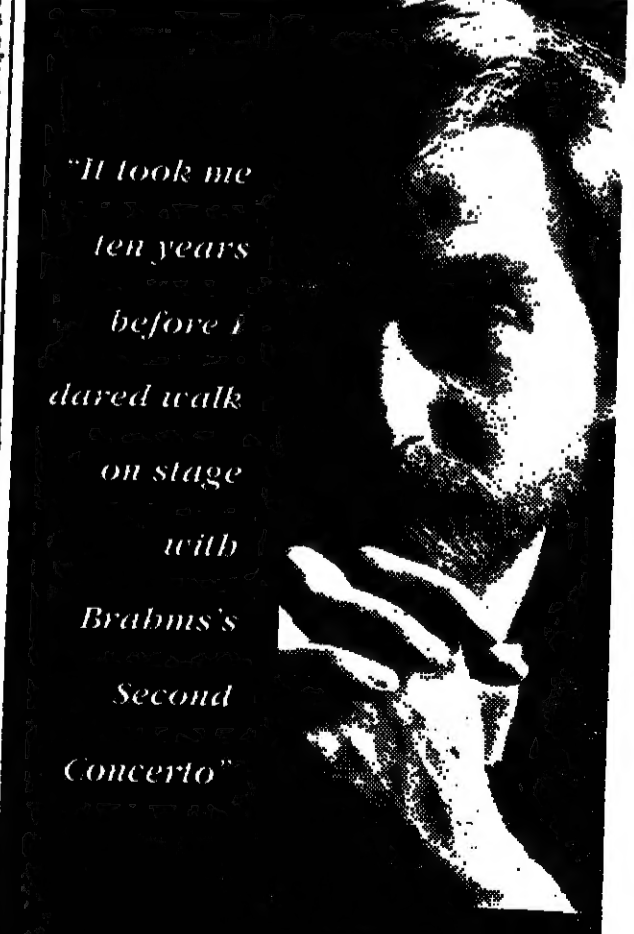
By KERRY GILL

PETER Barshauskas, a Lithuanian academic, was a happy man last night in spite of being left with hardly a rouble to his name and faced with a 3,000-mile journey home.

Honesty, for Mr Barshauskas, is more important than worldly goods, which is why he spent his life savings of more than 5,000 roubles (£5,000 at the official exchange rate) to turn up at a Scottish court to answer a careless driving charge. There was no need for him to have attended court, but he said he wanted the peace of mind of having done the right thing.

At Stonehaven sheriff court he was admonished for having collided with three cars and a lorry while driving a friend's car during a visit to Aberdeen university last year. The court was told that Mr Barshauskas had borrowed the car for a drive down the east coast of Scotland but, obviously unfamiliar with British roads, he had driven into the path of oncoming vehicles. He had thought he was driving on a dual carriageway.

After he returned to Lithuania, Mr Barshauskas, aged 37, a lecturer at Kaunas university, received a notice saying the matter would be dealt with in court. His friend sent him a fidesimile message telling him he was being charged with careless driving and using a car without insurance. Mr Barshauskas decided that he must turn up at court rather than plead



Krystian Zimmerman in the May issue of

GRAMOPHONE

The Review of New Classical Recordings

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Courts concerned at lenders' tough line on mortgage debts

TOUGH actions to halt an increase in mortgage defaults are being critically examined by debt counselling agencies and county courts.

Use of debt collection agencies to pursue defaulters and the introduction of computerised "blacklist" of borrowers are seen as signs that building societies' benevolence is declining.

At Torquay county court this week, Judge Parmiter voiced his alarm, saying some lenders were "somewhat aggressive". He believed many were too quick to go to court and said he would help householders if he could, adding: "There is great concern about the number of cases that are coming before the courts. People don't realise they might be able to persuade the court for time to pay arrears."

When the court sends

Concern is growing over tough tactics being adopted by lenders faced by increasing problems of mortgage debts. Michael Horsnell reports

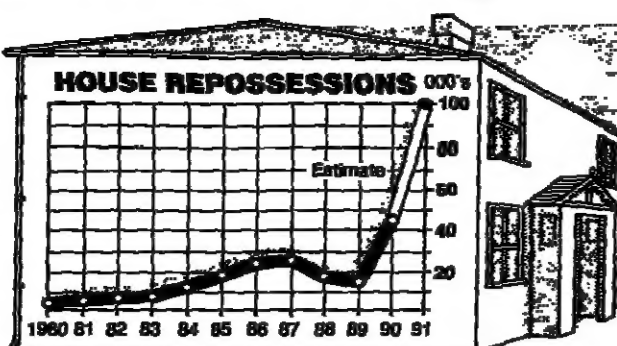
possession summonses, it now encloses a form saying: "The court can stop the sale of your home." This is the idea of Judge Parmiter, who wants borrowers to know that they need not necessarily be afraid of being thrown out.

In April last year, the court dealt with 28 possession cases. Last month, the number was 170, but Judge Parmiter granted only 51, largely because borrowers failed to appear. He granted 19 suspended orders and the rest were withdrawn by lenders or adjourned for payments and agreements on clearing arrears.

The judge said: "The majority of building societies are perfectly reasonable. What is problematical is that some secondary lenders, probably with cash flow problems of their own are being somewhat aggressive. My concern is to emphasise that people need not give up."

Repossessions are forecast to reach 100,000 this year, more than double the 1990 figure. In 1989, the mortgage industry had to write off £42.8 million in bad debts on residential property, and the 1990 figure is expected to be much worse.

The Consumers' Association, which has received complaints that some lenders



are hasty in seeking repossession, said last night: "We would be concerned where a lender issues a repossession order without first giving the borrower the chance to restructure payment. The difficulty arises more often with some of the centralised lenders rather than the high street lenders."

The 164-member Council of Mortgage Lenders, representing clearing banks and building societies, is considering adopting a scheme devised by Infotink, the credit reference organisation, to introduce a national register of mortgage defaulters. The register would help tackle problems arising out of repossessions, which rose from 3,480 in 1980 to 15,810

in 1989 before nearly tripling in the past 12 months. Meaveen Freeman, a director of GA Property Services, the estate agency chain, estimates that it handles up to 400 repossessed properties a week for societies and aims for a sale within ten days.

Using the register, which follows a call by the National Consumer Council for lenders to share information on mortgage defaulters, subscribers will be able to confirm that proceedings for possession have been instituted or an order has been obtained; that a borrower has surrendered the keys and possession; or that a borrower owes money after a property's sale.

Infotink says that if a defaulter's fortunes improve and he can confirm means to repay a new mortgage, his

register entry would not stop him from obtaining one.

The register has been adopted by the Association of Mortgage Lenders, representing 20 centralised lenders funded through the money market. Robert Sharpe, its deputy chairman, said: "The AML has worked together with Infotink in order to avoid a situation developing whereby good mortgagors who maintain their contractual payments start paying a premium to make up the shortfall caused by losses originating from the volume of repossessed property. No lender wishes to repossess property and borrowers should work with their lender to ensure this situation does not happen."

Lenders face increasing difficulty from borrowers who wilfully default by handing in the keys. Such volun-

tary repossessions rose last year to half of all repossessions from their normal level of a third. When the value of a property falls below the mortgage debt, some borrowers hand in their keys as a way out of financial difficulty, mistakenly believing they are no longer liable for repayments on their loan. There is nothing at the moment to stop them applying to another borrower in order to buy another property, leaving a debt with the original institution which will not be detected by the second borrower.

With sustained high interest rates and growing unemployment, the number of loans six to 12 months behind rose to 123,110 at the end of December, up from 66,800 at the end of 1989.

Repayment holidays, page 1

Three with IRA links sentenced in Belgium

THREE suspected members of the IRA were sentenced in Belgium yesterday for their part in planning attacks against British targets.

The court in Antwerp found the three men, Gerry Roche, aged 41, Kieran McCarthy, aged 30, and John Daly, aged 27, guilty of conspiracy to attack goods and persons. They were also found guilty of illegal possession of weapons and using false papers. A spokeswoman for the court said that it was shown that their actions were connected with the IRA.

The court recognised the men had acted for political ideals and not for personal gain, the spokeswoman said.

The three were arrested in Antwerp in December, days before a visit to Belgium by the Princess of Wales. Police found a gun, three Kalashnikov rifles, two automatic rifles, a revolver and a pistol in an apartment they had rented.

Roche, whose lawyer said he had played a non-violent part in the Irish nationalist struggle against Britain for more than 20 years, claimed responsibility for the weapons cache. He was sentenced to three years. McCarthy was sentenced to two years and Daly was given a one-year suspended sentence.

A man who kept a gun and ammunition for the IRA in his home was given a seven-year suspended jail sentence yesterday. Paul Kelly, aged 32, from Finglas, had pleaded guilty at the anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court in Dublin to having a sawn-off rifle and 1,530 rounds of ammunition.

Hospitals in London may lose hundreds more jobs

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS more jobs are expected to be lost in the next few months as several London teaching hospitals that have remained under local health authority control follow the lead set by Guy's, the flagship NHS trust, which declared 600 redundancies last week.

The hospitals say they will have to lose significant numbers, including medical and nursing posts, in order to remain financially viable and competitive in the internal NHS market.

The news of further cuts coincided with a critical report from York University that said the reforms could lead to chaos in London, with a danger of "haphazard closures". Today the British Medical Association will highlight underfunding in the NHS and call on the government to halt the next wave of trusts.

St Bartholomew's hospital, in the City, which was refused trust status this year, has planned to save £3.5 million this year and lose up to 200 jobs out of 5,500. Charing Cross and Westminster hospitals are expected next week to announce up to 400 job losses out of over 5,000 to save an estimated £6 million out of a budget of £170 million. King's College hospital, Camberwell, needs to save £2.9 million and predicts further staff cuts, including nursing posts.

Ken Grant, district general

manager at City and Hackney, said: "It is nothing whatever to do with trust status. What Guy's has done is nothing new. We have lost 1,000 posts in the last five years and last year we lost about 250. We have to relate activity to the money available."

All hospitals, whether or not they have opted out of health authority control, have to compete for contracts under the new internal market. The higher overheads of London hospitals, however, are translated into higher prices for services which most provincial hospitals can undercut. Hospital managers fear that unless they lower costs significantly they will fail to attract enough business to stay viable.

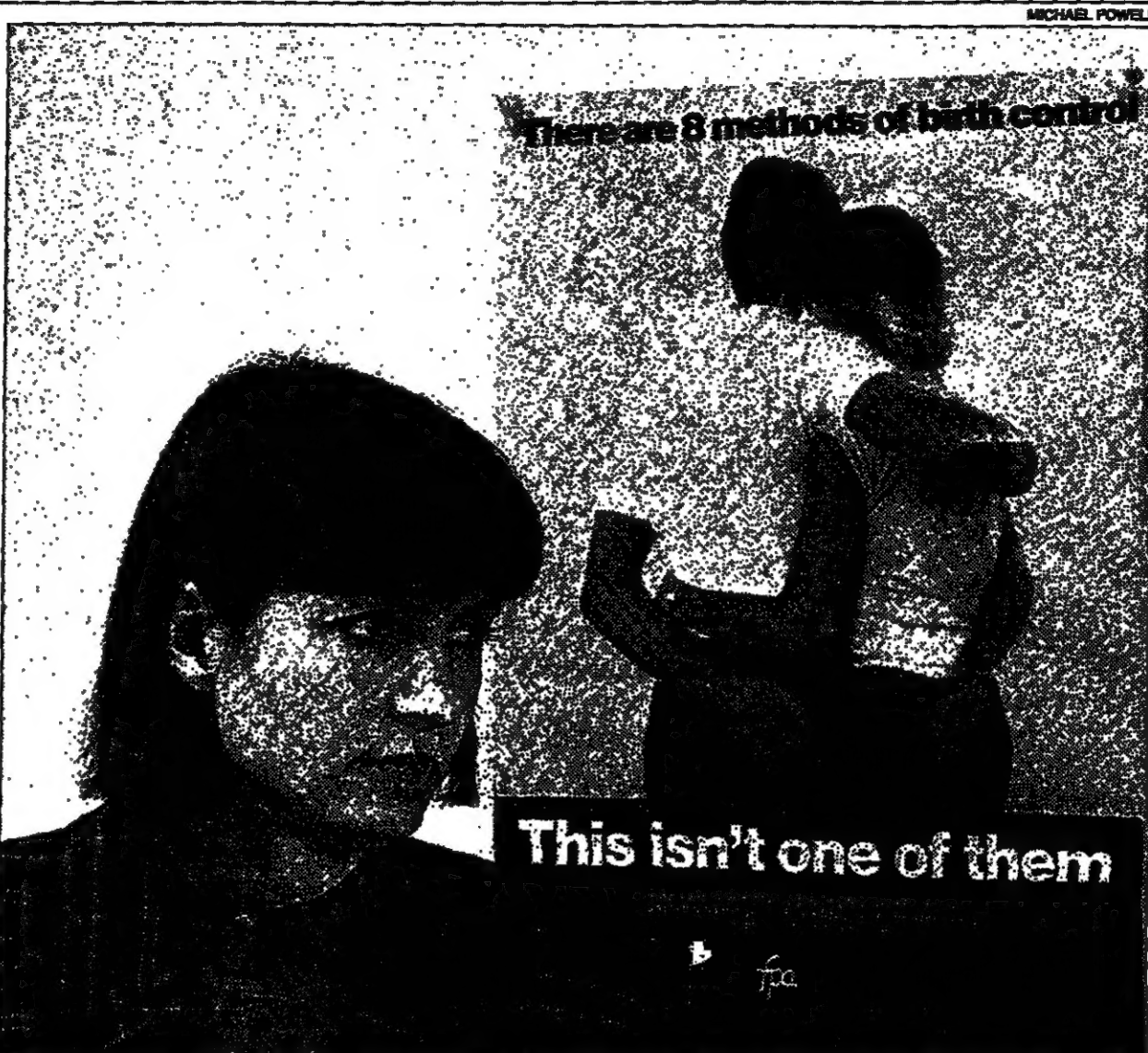
An influential Conservative-controlled group of MPs is likely to embarrass ministers further over job cuts at NHS trusts by ordering an urgent enquiry into the financial plight of hospitals that have opted out (Nicholas Wood writes).

A private meeting of the Commons health select committee chaired by Nicholas Winterton, Tory MP for Macclesfield, is expected to approve the investigation today. The government has already admitted that only 12 of the 57 trusts are free of financial problems.

The disclosures came as John Major and Neil Kinnock clashed in the Commons over the cutbacks. The Labour leader demanded an immediate halt to the opting out programme, which is likely to accelerate next year with up to 120 applications for trust status. Mr Kinnock accused the prime minister of turning his back on the results of his policies as he sought to extract the maximum political advantage from a dispute that is likely to impinge on tomorrow's district council elections. He said Mr Major had a moral obligation to ensure that the loss of vital patient care services at Guy's was not repeated elsewhere.

Mr Major strongly backed William Waldegrave, the health secretary, in his insistence that doctors and nurses must no longer be saddled with second-rate management systems. He said: "I want the management of the NHS to be as efficient as medical care in the NHS."

Mr Major accused Labour of damaging NHS services, saying that the Opposition had turned moves towards "natural and necessary rationalisation" into a "political football".



Harriet Harman, Labour health spokeswoman, on a visit to a Brook Advisory Service clinic in southeast London yesterday. She said that health service cash shortages meant that women were having to wait longer for abortions.

More city colleges planned

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE government announced two new city technology colleges (CTCs) yesterday and said it planned to maintain expansion by reducing the cost to sponsors.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, brought the number of CTCs to 15 by agreeing that new colleges should open next year in Bristol and Derby. Private sponsors are to meet one fifth of the £21 million costs.

The government's original target was 20 colleges, but Sir Cyril Taylor, chairman of the CTCs Trust, admitted yesterday that there were no more of the original model in the pipeline. Instead, the trust hopes to develop a new type of college in partnership with local education authorities.

By using redundant school buildings and removing the requirement for trusts to buy college sites, Sir Cyril expects to cut the cost of opening a CTC from £10 million to £1 million.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said that the new policy was a last attempt to save a failed programme.

Threat of legal action on poll tax capping recedes

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE threat of concerted legal action by local authorities over poll tax capping receded yesterday when two more Labour councils agreed to abide by spending limits set by ministers.

The decisions by Middlesbrough and Greenwich, in London, mean that six of the 14 local authorities threatened with capping this year have now accepted the budget cuts demanded by the government.

Last year all of the 19 councils designated for capping went to the House of Lords before admitting defeat, but capping rules have been tightened and most councils

have now ruled out legal action.

The latest decisions were announced within hours of the deadline at midnight last night for capping appeals. Greenwich has agreed to reduce this year's budget by £2.5 million to £213 million which will lead to a £16 cut in its community charge. The council's £398 poll tax, already cut to £258 by the Chancellor's £140 a head reduction, will now fall to £242.

For Middlesbrough the cap will reduce its budget by £755,000 to £20.2 million, resulting in a £7 cut in poll tax. After capping and the £140

reduction from the Chancellor the borough's community charge will be £307.

The councils designated for capping this year are Basildon, Bristol, Greenwich, Ipswich, Lambeth, Langbaurgh-on-Tees, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, Norwich, Reading, Somerset, Stoke-on-Trent, Warwickshire and Wirral. Conservative-run Somerset was the first to accept its proposed cap followed by Labour-led Milton Keynes. Conservative Langbaurgh and Labour Reading, Lambeth has said it will appeal.

Parliament, page 7



One for the road: the Jaguar XJS V12 convertible, one of a range of updated Jaguar sports cars that go on sale today. The top of the range model costs £50,000

Fire and rain give taste of traffic jams to come

By DAVID YOUNG

AS LONDON Underground staff planned a series of strikes, commuters yesterday faced a dress rehearsal of the inevitable road chaos that will follow.

London traffic, at best never far from grid-locked, became enmeshed in a classic tangle when heavy rain disrupted vehicle flows, and main routes through the City were blocked by a fire at Liverpool Street. The station was closed at the height of the morning rush because of a blaze in adjoining buildings' huts.

As thick smoke filled the station concourses, Bishopsgate, one of the main routes through the City, was sealed

off. Adjoining streets were also closed and traffic backed up on routes into the area. Journeys that should have taken ten minutes ground on for an hour-and-a-half.

British Rail trains to Liverpool Street were terminating at Hackney and Stratford, and Underground trains did not stop at Liverpool Street. The result, said the City of London police, was chaos.

The RAC is now studying the factors that caused a traffic blockage in a quarter-square-mile area to radiate outwards to cover 50 square miles within an hour.

The traffic jams in London

next week, however, could be much worse. A series of 24-hour Underground strikes could begin as a result of a ballot of Rail, Maritime and Transport union members, which recorded 3,760 in favour of walk-outs with 1,945 against. The white-collar Transport Salaried Staffs Association has already voted for industrial action by two to one.

The unions have to take action within 28 days for the ballot results to remain valid. London Underground, which has now offered to go to talks at the government arbitration service Acas, said a strike would be pointless and damaging and urged the

unions to call off the proposed action.

The threat of huge traffic jams is not, however, a prospect unique to Londoners. The RAC said yesterday that the tourist industry could be undermined by horrendous jams throughout Britain this summer. Lyn Gray, of the RAC, said tailbacks were a serious threat to the efforts of the industry to persuade more people to holiday in the UK.

The rain storms that contributed to London's traffic difficulties yesterday broke weather records. The London Weather Centre said yesterday was the wettest April day this century in the South-East,

with more than an inch of rain falling in the last 24 hours.

However, after two dry summers and a dry winter, the deluge will not be enough to ease the shortage that is threatening drought in the South. Widespread hosepipe bans are likely to be introduced this summer.

Anglian Water yesterday imposed a hosepipe ban on a million people in East Anglia, and a sprinkler ban is already in operation in parts of north London and Hertfordshire. Little further recovery in groundwater levels is expected in those areas.

Forecast, page 24

Probation officers take action

PROBATION officers begin a work-to-rule today after the refusal of their employers to accept a six-part claim for a reduction in the working of unsocial hours, financial compensation for such work, and time off in lieu for overtime (Stewart Tindler writes).

A ballot held last month by the National Association of Probation Officers found in favour of taking industrial action for the first time in its 79-year history. Members will work only on weekdays from 8.30am to 6pm.

Strike total, page 8

Warning over heavy lorries

Britain's roads and bridges would be unable to cope if maximum lorry weights were increased from 38 to 44 tonnes by January 1993, the environmental organisation Transport 2000 said yesterday. The Freight Transport Association wants maximum weights increased to the creation of the single European market.

Britain has already agreed to increase the maximum to 40 tonnes by 1999.

N-dump tests

Plans by Nirex, the nuclear waste agency, to drill up to 6,000 test holes in an underground nuclear waste dump at Dounreay, Caithness, were approved by Ian Lang, Scottish secretary, yesterday. He upheld Nirex's appeal against the Highland regional council's refusal to grant permission for the borings to test the site's suitability.

Inmate rescued

Philip Darley, aged 17, a remand prisoner, was under intensive care last night after being found hanging from cell bars in the young offenders' wing of Armlay prison, Leeds, where six teenage inmates have committed suicide in two years. Mr Darley, of Huddersley, Leeds, was described as "poorly, but stable" at Leeds general infirmary. He had been due in court yesterday, accused of burglary.

CORRECTION

In Monday's Times, we wrongly reported that the new Coventry Wing at the Salisbury Centre for Visual Arts, East Anglia university, had been paid for by John and Lisa Sainsbury and their son David. In fact, the donors were Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury and their son David.

Salisbury The Times reported: "The new Coventry Wing at the Salisbury Centre for Visual Arts, East Anglia university, had been paid for by John and Lisa Sainsbury and their son David. In fact, the donors were Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury and their son David."

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Northern Ireland secretary meets Hume and Alderdice at Stormont

Brooke embarks on preliminary talks with Ulster parties

By TIM JONES

PETER Brooke, secretary of state for Northern Ireland, yesterday walked up the 60 steps leading to Stormont to begin talks that he hopes will end a bloody cycle of violence that has claimed 2,872 lives in 22 years.

Only one Loyalist, Cedric Wilson, managed to break the intense security surrounding the imposing and tranquil setting to remind Mr Brooke of the passions that must be soothed if the prize of peace is to be won. As Mr Brooke entered the building, Mr Wilson shouted out to him the old Protestant war cry of "No Surrender. No Surrender to Dublin rule".

Mr Wilson missed the point. It is because Mr Brooke senses a degree of political surrender or compromise that he has spent the past 14 months painstakingly and patiently setting up the process that will begin the first true inter-party talks for 16 years. Mr Brooke senses that there is now in the province a weariness with what Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, describes as "the long war".

Sinn Féin, because it will not renounce the "armed struggle", is excluded from the talks, which have no formal agenda. Mr Brooke, however, has made it clear that he envisages a form of administrative devolution that should include a proper role for those on both sides

of the province's political divide. Protestants, who resent his assertion that any agreement must include a contribution by the Republic of Ireland, have been partly placated by strong hints from Dublin that the republic will be prepared to engage in its own form of surrender by dropping its cherished territorial claim to the troubled six counties. Dublin accepts the British affirmation that its part of Ulster would transfer to the republic if a majority should ever so decide.

Yesterday, Mr Brooke's process of trying to bridge the great tribal rift began when he met John Hume, leader of the mainly Catholic SDLP, and his senior party colleagues. Mr Hume said that he wanted the agenda to be one of satisfying and agreeing "what the problem is" regarding Northern Ireland and the various relationships surrounding it.

In the afternoon, Mr Brooke held talks with the Alliance party, headed by Dr John Alderdice. On Friday, he will meet James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionist party, and the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist party, whose agreement to participate has led to his being branded a traitor by loyalists of an even more fundamentalist nature.

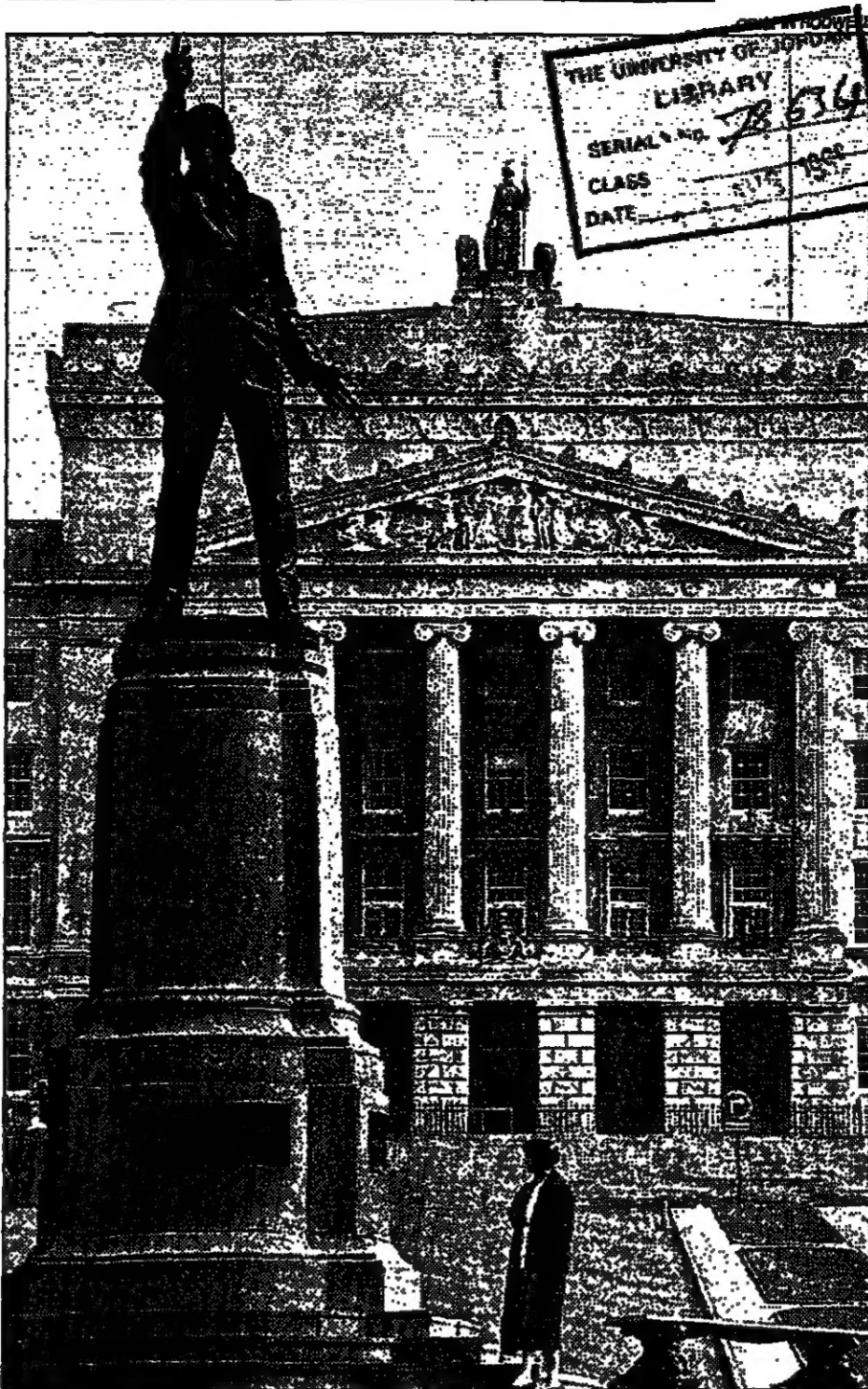
If these hurdles can be

cleared, the four parties will meet together next week in the hope of resolving a problem that was already 600 years old when Lord Carson of Duncannon, whose statue stands outside Stormont, was born in 1854.

Revered as a hero by Ulster Protestants, Lord Carson was one of the few men who lived to see a statue erected to celebrate his achievements. To be precise, those achievements included raising a volunteer army to fight the British for the right to remain British and being involved in talks with the Kaiser that led to suggestions that the province could become part of the German empire rather than being swallowed up by "papists".

Mr Brooke hopes that yesterday's tentative talks will enable Belfast's so-called peace line to crumble more quickly than did the Berlin Wall, but he knows that the task before him is huge.

It was, after all, Winston Churchill who said in 1922: "The whole map of Europe has been changed. But as the deluge subsides and the waters fall short, we see the dreary steeples of Fermanagh and Tyrone emerging once again. The integrity of their quarrels is one of the few institutions that has been unaltered in the cataclysm which has swept the world."



Secure setting: Stormont, scene of talks aimed at bridging Ulster's political divide

Jumbo jet 'lost touch with safety lifeline'

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH Airways Boeing 747 jet that narrowly missed buildings as it came in to land at Heathrow had lost touch with its "lifeline to safety" — a precision approach aid allowing aircraft to land in bad weather — a court was told yesterday.

As the jet, piloted by Captain William Glen Stewart, dropped at the rate of 14ft a second to 484ft above the ground, red warning lights on the instrument panel indicated that the aircraft was now well off course. "He had effectively lost touch with his precision approach aid and was no longer in contact with it," said Captain David Taylor, flight operations inspector for the Civil Aviation Authority, which investigated the incident, in November 1989.

"It is the pilot's lifeline to safety. If you lose touch with it you have lost touch with your precision approach aid. You no longer have the slightest right in the world to continue to the limit of a precision approach," Captain Taylor said. He was giving evidence on the sixth day of the trial at Isleworth crown court in which Captain Stewart is accused of two counts of negligence.

Captain Taylor said the Boeing 747 had still not established itself on the instrument landing system at Heathrow as it reached 1,000ft, when the landing should have been abandoned. When the aircraft first tried under auto-pilot to line itself up on the radio beam that would guide it in, the auto-pilot "was somewhat sluggish or hesitant" and the aircraft passed through it.

That slight hitch was allowed to develop into a

situation of utmost danger to the aircraft, its occupants and countless people on the ground. "It is my opinion that Captain Stewart in allowing that to happen fell below the standards I would expect in a confident and prudent captain," Captain Taylor said.

The aircraft continued its approach, possibly because Captain Stewart had earlier been informed that the weather had improved. Captain Taylor said that category 2 approaches — requiring the pilot to see the runway or the lights at a height of at least 100ft above the ground — must be abandoned at 1,000ft if all the criteria had not been met.

Even with better visibility the approach had to be made with precision. However, Captain Stewart's aircraft was "weaving about" and lights placed so that they could not be missed were warning him that he was off-course. "It is my opinion that it was impossible for Captain Stewart to have believed that the tracking of his aircraft was acceptable. It was bad and it was getting worse."

Once the warning lights glowed it should have taken no more than five seconds for the pilot to decide whether a landing was acceptable. "At the end of that time it is my opinion that Captain Stewart should have concluded without question that he had no option but to go around and to do so promptly. He did not do so and in my opinion he was negligent in failing to do so when there was a progressive and increasing risk of real danger."

The case continues today.

Strip-a-gram man found guilty of indecent assault

By BILL FROST

A STRIP-a-gram performer was yesterday convicted on two charges of indecently assaulting women at parties and hen nights. However, Michael Crosby, aged 32, was cleared by a jury at Kingston crown court, Surrey, on nine similar counts. Sentence was adjourned until June 7 pending psychiatric reports, and Crosby was remanded in custody.

Crosby, a former stockbroker, had denied all 11 charges of indecently assaulting women.

The three-week trial at Kingston crown court heard how Crosby, from Tottenham, north London, usually dressed

as a policeman and "arrested" his victims.

Some of the women complained they had been subjected to ritual humiliation in front of friends and family. Crosby claimed he never compelled the women to do anything they did not want to do.

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In the mid-Seventies no Manhattan party was complete without one. Modestly-dressed minstrels would arrive to serenade the birthday boy or girl or the executive

Soldier on Falklands fire charge 'was edgy'

A FORMER soldier accused of starting a fire at a Falkland Islands hospital, in which eight people died, was "agitated and worried" on the night of the blaze, a military policeman told the Old Bailey yesterday.

Clive Shorters's reaction was untypical among the people he was interviewing, said David Dixon, a former sergeant with the Royal Military Police special investigation branch.

Mr Dixon, now with Thames Valley Police, believed that Mr Shorters, then a lance-corporal in the Royal Army Medical Corps, wanted to ask if he was suspected of any involvement in the crime.

Mr John Bevan, for the prosecution, said that Mr Shorters "was not where he should have been" while on duty in the King Edward VII Memorial hospital in Port Stanley, and had lied about where he was in the few minutes before the fire was discovered. The prosecution alleges that Mr Shorters deliberately started a fire in an empty room of the hospital using an accelerator and causing a rapid overwhelming conflagration. Mr Shorters, 29, of Mallory Crescent, Little Bloxwich, West Midlands, denies manslaughter.

Private Andrew Sumner, who was on duty with Mr Shorters on the night, said Mr Shorters kept going out and coming back. "I remember him going off so many times it seemed strange," he said. Mr Shorters had "behaved like a cat on a hot tin roof".

Mr Bevan told members of jury that they must ask themselves two questions: Was the fire started deliberately and was it started by Mr Shorters? The trial continues today.

Art adds colour to city life, winners told

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

URBAN centres offer a unique opportunity for art to contribute to the environment, Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, said yesterday as the first awards were presented in the Arts Council/British Gas Working for Cities scheme, a new venture to encourage inner-

city cultural projects. Lord Palumbo said: "Working for Cities has demonstrated how the arts can enhance the visual quality of the environment, how they can contribute to community pride and how they help create new jobs."

The eight categories for the awards are art in public spaces, people, buildings, events, partnership, forthcom-

ing projects, community (in association with *The Sunday Times*). The winners, who each receive a sculpture by Alec Peever, are: Broadgate, London (art in public spaces); Neville Campbell and the Phoenix Dance Company, for involving Leeds people in dance projects; the Tic Toc building, Coventry; the National Garden Festival, Gates-

head (event); Fish Quay, north Tyneside (partnership); the riverfront promenade at Newport, Gwent, (forthcoming projects); Mehfil-E-Tar, the Bedford Asian women's textiles project (community).

Joint winners of the British Gas award for youth projects were the National Festival of Asian Music and the Humber-side Youth Theatre Festival.

Detonator 'called commercial unit'

By RAY CLANCY

AN EXPORT manager agreed that nuclear detonating devices destined for Baghdad should be described as commercial products to avoid a ban on exporting goods with a military use to Iraq, the Central Criminal Court heard yesterday.

Jeanine Speckman, who works for Euromac of Thames Ditton, Surrey, discussed the description of the devices with representatives of an American firm at a meeting in a London hotel that was secretly taped by an undercover agent after US and British Customs officials infiltrated the deal.

At the meeting were Mrs Speckman and her chief, Ali Ashour Daghir, managing director of Euromat, two Iraqi engineers, Jerry Kowalsky, president of CSI Technologies of California, which was to make the devices, and Daniel

Supnick, the under-cover agent who was posing as "Dan Saunders", the US firm's sales manager. Mrs Speckman and Mr Daghir deny conspiracy to illegally export 40 electrical capacitors to Iraq. A third defendant, Toufic Fouad Anyumi, Euromac's sales manager, who was not present at the meeting at the hotel, also denies the charge.

The jury heard tapes of the conversation at the meeting. Mrs Speckman, a French national, was heard asking if an export licence was required and later saying that the goods could be described as computer room air conditioning units.

At the end of November, 1989, she told Mr Saunders that she was no longer involved in the order, the court was told. The trial continues today.



Crosby: custody remand for reports

MPs defeat official line on hedges

By MICHAEL HORNSEY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

Unkempt about those hedges blows An English unofficial rose RUPERT Brooke's Edwardian vision of the English rural idyll may have been saved from extinction yesterday when Tory and Opposition MPs joined forces to vote in favour of legal protection for hedgerows during the committee stage of the Planning and Compensation Bill.

The government tried to prevent the insertion into the bill of a new clause empowering local authorities to prohibit "the cutting down, uprooting, removal, wilful damage or wilful destruction of hedgerows", but was defeated by nine votes to seven.

Two Tory MPs, Robert Jones (Hertfordshire West), who sponsored the new clause, and Anthony Sten

(South Hams), voted against the government. Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, parliamentary under-secretary of state at the Scottish Office, had argued that the clause was "premature" because the government was still considering responses to a similar proposal of its own.

Mr Jones said: "To be fair to the government, they are keen to preserve hedgerows and have been consulting with the agriculture ministry and the Treasury on how best to do it. But we felt they were dragging their feet and that the time had come to give them a sharp nudge."

Surveys by the Countryside Commission suggest that some 109,000 miles, or 22 per cent, of the 494,000 miles of hedges existing at the end of the second world war had disappeared

beneath the plough and the bulldozer by 1985. The rate of destruction is presumed to have slowed since then, though there is little hard information. Up until the mid-Eighties farmers could get government grants towards the cost of tearing out hedges on the grounds that their removal constituted agricultural "improvement". These grants have been stopped and replaced by payments for re-planting hedges, made in many cases to the same farmers who benefited from the earlier grants.

The committee stage revolt means that the government will have to come up with legislation of its own or let the new clause go through as it stands. There is still debate on how much farmers should be paid for the upkeep of hedgerows and how much, if anything, for not destroying them.

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£2m bill to save National Trust wardens from vandals

By JOHN YOUNG

THE National Trust spent about £2 million on improving security and protecting its wardens from assault last year, it disclosed yesterday. The trust's volunteer guides, many of them elderly and retired, found the job much more difficult and dangerous than a few years ago, said Ian Bollom, director of finance. The guides were not about to be replaced by uniformed guards but visitors would inevitably become more conscious of security measures, he said. At Knole in Kent, for example, the silver-plated furniture in one bedroom could now only be viewed from a glass box. The trust's staff, 300 or so wardens responsible for about 550,000 acres of countryside, were frequently confronted by people whose attitude was that land belonging to the trust was public property, and that they could do with it what they liked. "We have found that people nowadays want to use the countryside not just for peaceful activities like walking, but for sports involving motor-cycles," Mr Bollom said. "The latest development is something called a quad, which appears to be a sort of four-wheeled cycle, but mountain bikes can also do a lot of damage. It can be quite a fiasco when one person has to tackle a group of helmeted youths." Theft from houses were increasingly common, especially when they contained large collections of items which could be easily concealed and removed. The trust was actively considering a ban on visitors taking photographs, in the light of abundant evidence that they were being used to assist in the planning of burglaries. Plants and garden furniture were also vulnerable to thieves, he said. "Some people are quite ruthless and will just come along with trowels and dig up what they want. The enormous interest in gardening has made visitors acutely aware of the value of plants." The trust was also spending about £3.5 million on environmental improvements to its 1,200 farms. Many tenants were barely able to pay the rent, let alone embark on expensive capital works. So the trust often had to pay for the work itself. As the second largest landowner in England and Wales, after the defence ministry, the trust spent £81 million last year on conserving and maintaining its properties, £12 million more than in 1989. An increasing share of its income — offsetting declining revenues from agricultural rents — now came from such commercial activities as shops and restaurants, which last year had a turnover of £32 million and employed several hundred people. The trust is, however, operating at a considerable deficit, which last year was funded by a record £20 million in receipts from legacies. It is a precarious position, Mr Bollom said, not helped by a marked decline in government support, from more than £13 million in 1988 to only £7.4 million last year.

MP backs abuse case parents over access

By KERRY GILL

THE case of a mother and father, separated from their four children since last June after allegations of ritual sexual abuse, has been raised with Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, and Professor Fred Edwards, director of social work for Strathclyde. George Younger, MP for Ayr and a former defence secretary, spoke to Mr Lang and Professor Edwards after the parents asked him to help. Mr Younger said it was "quite unacceptable" that they should be denied access to their children for so long. "I have no idea whether the allegations made about their children are true or not. It is not up to me to make any judgment about that," Mr Younger said. That judgment should rest with a children's panel or a court. Mr Younger added: "What I am complaining about is the way they are being treated while these matters are being investigated and have not been proven either way. It is not reasonable that parents should be deprived of access altogether from some of their children." The four children are now aged from 18 months to 11. Neither of the parents has seen the three younger children since. They have been allowed to visit the eldest child for two hours a month, under supervision, since February. Four children from two other families were taken from their Ayrshire homes at the same time. The parents have been charged and none has been abused. Their request for increased access will be considered at a hearing later this month.

Digger may have found Viking long ship

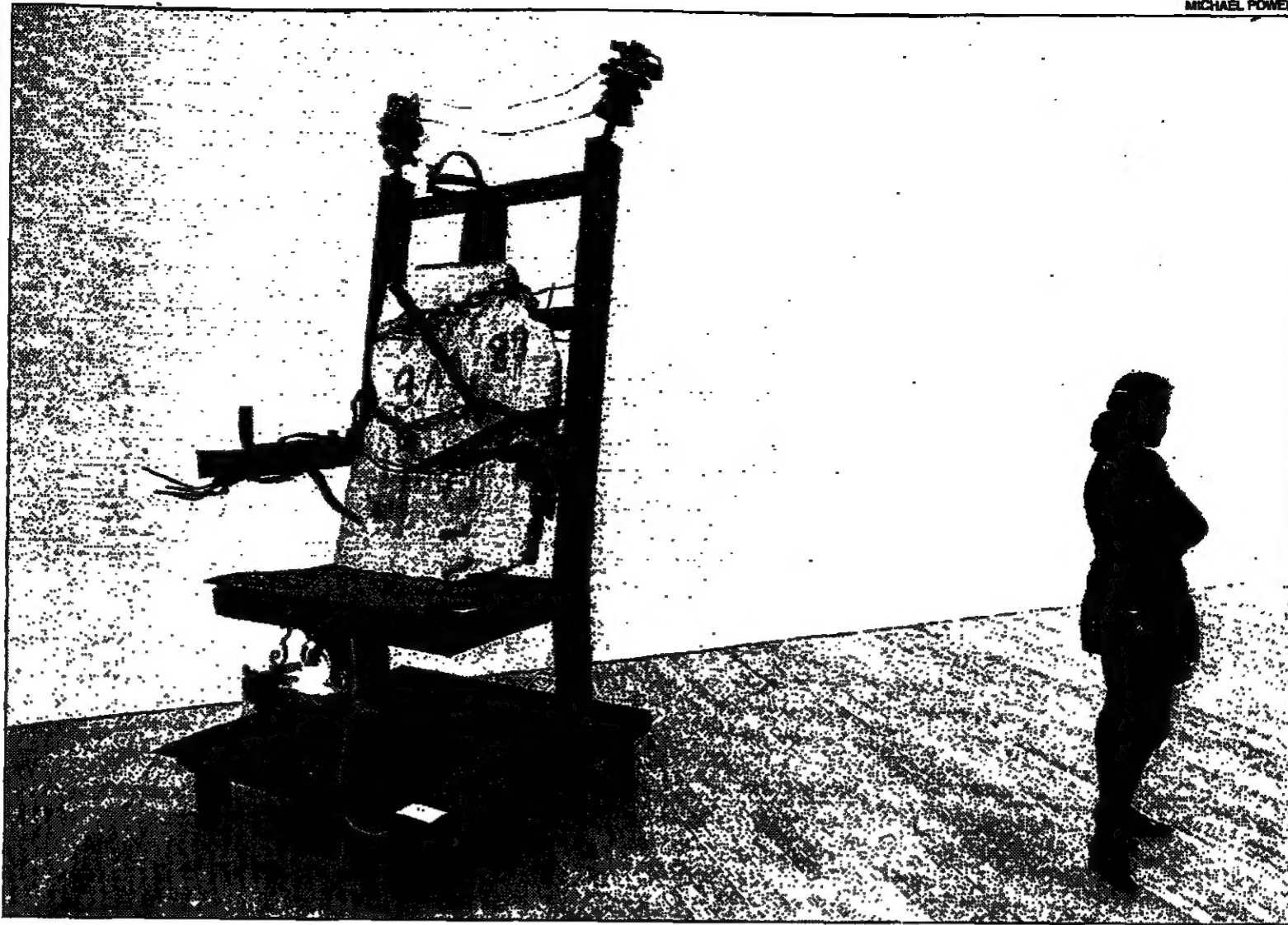
By JOHN SHAW

BLACKENED timbers thought to come from a Viking long ship have been found by a digger driver in a creek leading to the river Blyth at Southwold, Suffolk. Carbon dating has placed them in the late 10th century. According to Stuart Bacon, head of the Suffolk Underwater Studies Unit, researchers expect a rich archaeological site. "We know there were mud berths in this creek so these may be the remains of two vessels which fell into decay and became part of the sub-bottom, or it may have been a kind of ship repair yard," he said. The timbers were discovered in Buss Creek in December while it was being cleaned. Mr Bacon said there was a wide selection of timbers under water, "some of which could possibly be a Viking vessel". The other timbers could be from an English merchant ship. "We also found what looks like a blank for a side rudder. The exciting thing about that is that two other side rudders have been found in the area during the past ten years. There is rich archaeology there which needs further investigation." The finds also include perfectly preserved medieval pegs and fastenings to keep the ship's timbers together. They had been preserved in the sub-bottom because of the moisture. "I think the interesting thing is that this area extends for about an acre from the creek towards Southwold. A full excavation would tell us an awful lot about the early history of Southwold."

Sexual harassment 'part of daily life'

By ROSE TILMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SEXUAL harassment at work remains a severe problem, yet little more than a fifth of companies have policies designed to address it, according to a study commissioned by the Alfred Marks Bureau employment agency. The study analysed responses from 524 workers and company personnel officers nationwide. Forty-seven per cent of women and 14 per cent of men said that they had been sexually harassed at work. Nearly three-quarters of the responses analysed were from women. Although the survey suggests that sexual harassment remains part of everyday life for many women, victims preferred to make light of their experiences rather than complain. Pinching, grabbing and touching were the most common offences, but regular sexual remarks or jokes and being ogled were also regarded as harassment. In 59 per cent of cases, the offender was a superior, and the rewards for compliance included promotion, better pay, and time off. Where incidents were formally reported, the offender was disciplined in 43 per cent of cases, but only 22 per cent of firms had a formal procedure for dealing with sexual harassment. Nearly half had no procedure at all.



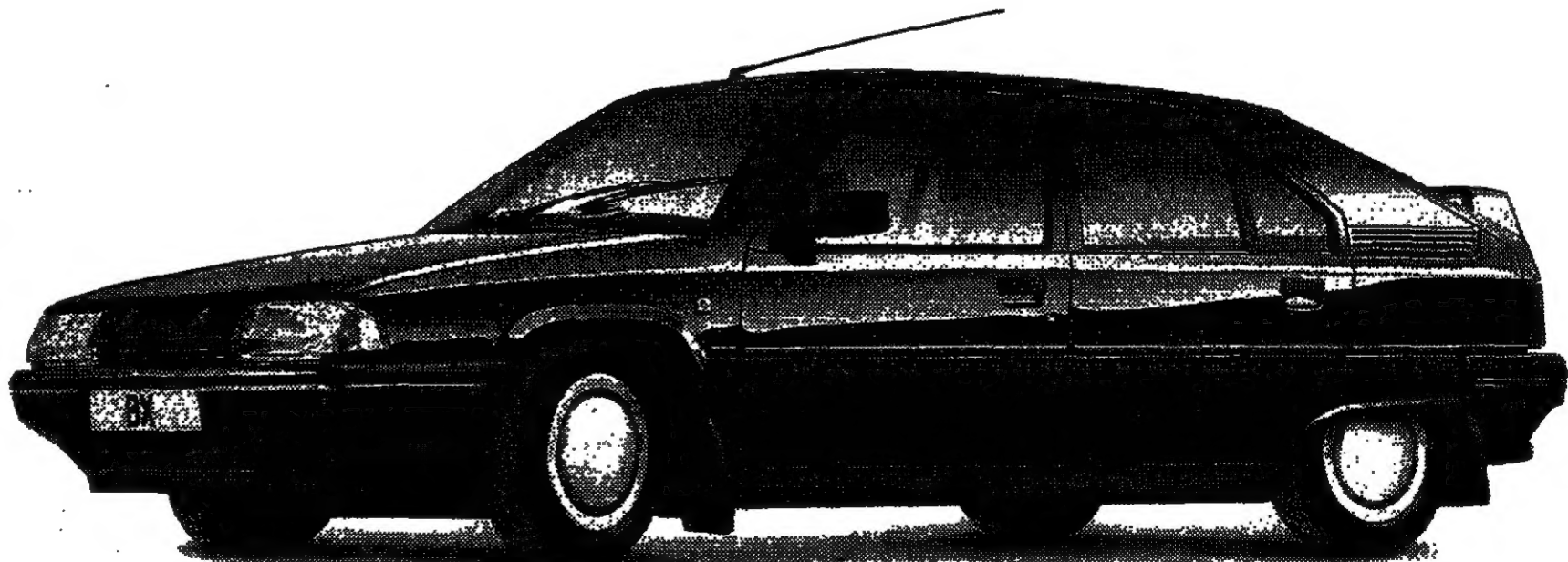
Wall art: a slab of the Berlin Wall fastened to a huge electric chair symbolises the destruction of the wall in a work by Rolf Kule. He is among international artists using fragments of the wall in the Artists for Liberty exhibition at the Royal College of Art in central London

Banks' 'hidden fees' are attacked

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

BANKS and building societies will not have to disclose the commissions they earn on insurance policies when they move into the conveyancing market, under draft rules published by the Lord Chancellor. The government's failure to require the disclosure of commissions was criticised by the Law Society, which said consumers would be inadequately protected and that abuses of the housing market would continue. Walter Merricks, the society's assistant secretary general, said: "Banks and building societies will be able to carry on selling insurance policies and making a lot of commission income on that, largely without disclosing it nor accounting for it to clients, while continuing to take a fee off clients for conveyancing services. Solicitors are required by law to account to clients for any commission they receive." As a result, there would not be a "level playing field" in the conveyancing market between the big financial institutions and solicitors, he said.

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Optimistic Mellor says economy is at a turning point

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government intensified yesterday its predictions that economic recovery is on the way, with David Mellor, Treasury chief secretary, claiming that there was increasing evidence of a turning point.

Responding to the report of the Conservative-dominated Treasury committee that accused the government last week of underestimating the scale of the recession, Mr Mellor called in aid yesterday's CBI survey which, he said, showed a marked increase in optimism and output expectations. He spoke of firm evidence of the underlying strength and competitiveness of business.

Mr Mellor, speaking during a Commons second reading debate on the finance bill, which implements the Budget, echoed the optimistic words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Washington on Monday that Britain would start pulling out of the recession by the end of the second quarter and that recovery "may be around the corner".

His claims, ridiculed by

Margaret Beckett, shadow chief secretary, were taken by Conservative MPs as further indication that Treasury ministers would prefer to wait at least until the autumn for a general election.

Mr Mellor told MPs: "Inflation is falling, we have been able to reduce interest rates and confidence is returning." He added: "Despite the recession, the last ten years have undoubtedly been a success story. The economy has been transformed. Britain's ability to compete internationally had been restored."

On the committee's "apprehension" about the strength and pace of recovery, he said: "It is always difficult to forecast a turning point, but there is now accumulating evidence of this. RPI inflation has already fallen 2.7 points from its peak of 1990. Recent surveys show a rise in business and consumer confidence. This morning the CBI quarterly survey showed a marked increase in optimism and output expectations. Private housing orders are up 12 per

cent in the three months to February over the previous three."

Turning to the details of the bill, Mr Mellor said that as value-added tax was a "proportionate tax", with those who spent more paying more, the burden of the rise from 15 per cent to 17.5 per cent would be lower for the less well-off. He told those demanding more "green" measures that this was not the year to "lumber industry with the burden of a carbon tax".

Mrs Beckett said that a series of forecasts to the contrary made it difficult to understand the source of the government's apparent optimism. The CBI survey had shown that expectations for investment and unemployment were worse than they were when the last survey was published, in January, and that expectations for training and innovation were no better. It had pointed out that it was too early to speak of recovery.

Leading article, page 19



Lord Houghton: House must not lose its confidence

Peers urged not to bend on anti-nazi bill

By PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN LEWIS

PEERS were urged yesterday to stick to their principles and again reject the war crimes bill despite government pressure. Lord Shawcross, a prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials, said: "This is not a house of wimps. It is the House of Lords. We are expected by the public to express our view honestly and clearly and I hope we will."

The bill allows for the prosecution in this country of alleged Nazi war criminals who were not within British jurisdiction at the time of the crimes. The original bill founded last year when the Lords rejected it by 207 votes to 74, although the Commons had given it resounding support.

The government has indicated that it will invoke the parliament acts to force the bill through if the Lords reject it a second time. Lord Houghton of Sowerby, the Labour peer, moved an amendment to delay second reading for six months, a procedural device that would have the effect of killing the bill. He said that many threats had been made by ministers against the Lords, but he warned the House against losing its confidence. The

government had offered no olive branch or overture to seek a mutual settlement, he said.

Peers could not stop the bill because, with the parliament acts, the government had a "straight course to the Crown".

Lord Houghton, the 92-year-old former minister, said: "Stick to your principles. Do not be ashamed of them and do not bend before any influence to distort them. We are entitled to our position. We should use it. We should be respected as having a mind of our own."

"We should say: 'We are not impeding the process of government. We are doing what the law expects us to do and, in our wisdom and conviction, we are going to do it'."

Opening the debate, Lord Waddington, leader of the House who as home secretary first introduced the bill, made clear his conviction that it was right. He was one of the few, he said, who had seen the unpublished part of the report by the Hetherington/Chalmers enquiry into war crime allegations. "I think I can and should say to you that histories are related and crimes against civilian populations of appalling barbarity are described."

"It is necessary to make this point", he added, "lest anyone outside this place still thinks that we are talking of excesses committed in the heat of battle rather than cold-blooded mass murder of defenceless citizens."

These were, at the time, crimes against the laws of civilised nations, so this was not about introducing retrospective legislation in the sense of creating new offences. Some might think it odd if "we were to decide now that a particular category of murderer, a mass murderer, should be exempt from prosecution just because of the effluxion of time".

He made clear that the government would consider amendments to improve the bill, although they would have to pass through the Commons.

He ruled out the need for the bill to apply to Japanese war crimes against British subjects, as urged in an amendment by Lord Campbell of Alloway, the Tory peer who also wanted Iraqi war crimes to be covered.

Lord Waddington said that British courts already had jurisdiction to try grave breaches of the Geneva conventions, including killing and torture, wherever committed. "So there is no need for us to legislate to cover events in Iraq. Of course, whether Iraqi war crimes trials will be held is another matter entirely and not for our government alone."

He advised peers that to pass Lord Houghton of Sowerby's amendment would amount to a rejection of the bill.

Poll tax cuts to cost £50m

Preliminary estimates suggest that local authorities in England will be faced with between £50 million and £60 million in extra administrative costs resulting from the government's decision to cut the community charge by £140 for each payer and the accompanying changes in the reduction scheme.

The figures were given by Robert Key, environment under secretary, in a written reply.

Cheap labour claim rejected

Tom King, defence secretary, angrily rejected a claim at question time that the Royal Engineers were being used as "cheap labour and perhaps cheap lives" to clear mines in Kuwait for Royal Ordnance, a commercial company.

He said that the charge made by John Reid, a Labour defence spokesman, was a disgraceful distortion. After clearing mines and booby traps on behalf of the Kuwaiti government to help in restoring essential services, the engineers were now involved only in surveying and marking minefields. The local commander would decide what work was to be done.

High payers



About 1.7 million taxpayers are estimated to be liable to pay tax at the higher rate in 1991-2, Francis Maude (above), Treasury financial secretary, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and industry. Debate on broadcasting the Commons followed by debate on reports from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and the health service commissioner. Lords (2.30): Debate on education and vocational training.

War crimes debate splits Campbells

By SHERILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO Campbells, both on the Conservative benches in the Lords and staunch party supporters, took opposite sides in the debate yesterday on whether to change the law to bring alleged Nazi war criminals to trial in Britain.

Lord Campbell of Alloway and Lord Campbell of Croy stand out because of their wartime experiences that helped to shape their stance on the war crimes bill. The Scottish peer, Lord Campbell of Croy, who backs the legislation, is influenced by a curious mixture of experiences. He and his troops in the 15th Scottish Division were the first allied forces to find Belsen concentration camp. Lord Campbell, who was a young major at the time with two Military Crosses, recalled that his men were more distressed by the sight of thousands of dying and starving inmates than by all the other horrors of war.

After being seriously wounded in the final days of the war he worked in the Foreign Office, vetting refugees from Yugoslavia. He went on to become Scottish secretary. "As I was responsible for home affairs for four years in Scotland I do feel sickened by rumours in Scotland about people who came in disguised with a large number of refugees between 1946 and 1948", he said.

He also started the last constitutional conflict with the Commons which came close to provoking the use of the parliament acts over Harold Wilson's aircraft and ship-

building bill in the mid-Seventies. Later, the Campbell amendments defused the dispute and the parliament acts were not used.

This time he believes that the Lords should not challenge the free votes in the elected chamber in favour of the legislation.

In contrast, Lord Campbell of Alloway was the first peer to



Lord Campbell of Croy: war influence

come out against the government's plans by blocking changes in the Scottish law last year that would have brought alleged Nazi war criminals to trial. The revolt then gathered steam until the Lords killed off the war crimes bill.

The QC bases his case almost entirely on objections to diluting British law for a selected group of suspects. Although he was a prisoner in Colditz, he is reluctant to link his attitude to his wartime experiences.

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Countdown to tomorrow's poll: new business rate has damaged prospects for shopkeepers

'For sale' boards signal fear of lost votes for York Tories

By PETER DAVENPORT

FROM his office above the family shop in York's Stonegate Simon Kilvington has a view that leads all the way to the minster. These days, however, the panorama is often obscured by "for sale" and "to let" signs on the shops in one of Britain's main shopping streets.

The uniform business rate is having a damaging effect on traders in a city that relies on the small and individual shop to provide an essential part of the attractions for its millions of tourists. The environment department published a table last year putting York at the top of the 20 authorities worst affected by the introduction of the new rate.

The new rate is said to have been a factor in the closure of 50 shops and businesses in York in the past year; the city's central Conservative club closed because of increased costs blamed on the uniform business rate and a higher rent.

The government's failure to alleviate the financial problems of small shops and businesses, many of whose owners or tenants would be

regarded as traditional Conservative voters, has greatly disappointed the Tories on the Labour-controlled city council as they approach the local elections.

Simon Kilvington took over the family firm of iron and wire workers and weavers when his father retired last year and is determined to continue the business that began 152 years ago. But the business rate is making that task harder. Under the new system the rates for the three-storey family shop have risen £4,400 a year to £25,000, an increase phased in over five years to ease the burden. Any new business, however, has instantly to pay the full new rate.

Along Stonegate there are seven "for sale" or "to let" signs. In the shopping arcade that adjoins the street most of the elegantly designed units remain empty.

Mr Kilvington is a friend of York's Conservative MP, Conal Gregory, custodian of the tightest Tory marginal in the country, having squeezed home in 1987 with a majority of 147 over his Labour opponent. Mr Kilvington had a

warning for fellow Conservatives: "The uniform business rate has hit lots of small businesses and it will cost us votes in the local elections".

Of the 45 seats on York city council, 31 are held by Labour, 10 by the Conservatives and 4 by the Liberal Democrats. Of the fifteen seats for which elections are taking place, six are Labour, seven Conservative and two Liberal Democrat.

Paul Milling, leader of the Conservative group, admits being disappointed that the government has done nothing to ease the impact of the business rate. He believes that disgruntled shopkeepers may abstain rather than switch to the Tories to other parties and he hopes that the budget poll tax measures, with Michael Heseltine's plans for an alternative way of raising local authority finance, will be enough for his group to hold their seven seats.

Rod Hills, the Labour leader, is confident of further tightening the party's grip on an authority held since a period of Tory rule was ended in 1986. He expects to hold

all six Labour seats and take three or four from the Conservatives and one from the Liberal Democrats.

York's poll tax for this year was set at £324, up from £264 last year, before the budget reduction of £140 brought the charge down to £184. Mr Hills says that the impact of the poll tax was badly felt in York because it had been a low-rated city. Before the budget reduction he calculated that the resident of an average Thirties semi-detached house was £3 a week worse off than under the old rates; even with the reduction, they were £1 a week poorer.

Under Labour control the city council has also pioneered a "citizens' charter" delivered each year to 50,000 households. The document sets out the council's aims and policies.

Although Mr Milling says that shopkeepers and businessmen affected by the new rate form a relatively small part of the electorate, their actions tomorrow may provide an unwelcome indicator of feeling among a once traditional core of Tory support.



City for sale: Busting Stonegate busy with shoppers and 'for sale' signs

£160,000 'for an honour'

By JOHN WINDER

POLITICAL honours given in return for contributions to Conservative party funds cost £160,000 each, Tony Banks, the left-wing Labour MP, said yesterday.

He was given leave in the Commons, by 122 votes to 90, to introduce a bill to abolish political honours. The bill is unlikely to make further progress.

Mr Banks said that the present system reeked of snobbery. "If the prime minister meant what he said about the classless society, he could do a lot worse than start on the honours system and eliminate some of these preposterous awards." The bill would exclude all politicians, civil servants, military personnel and working journalists from receiving routine awards.

Mr Banks said that he had costed the award of honours for contributions to the Conservative party and found that £12 million had been received by the party from companies and, in return, chairmen and managing directors had been given 75 peerages and knighthoods. That worked out at £160,000 an honour.

Teddy Taylor (Southend East, C) said that they must not abolish the prime minister's only remaining power.

Lacklustre fight has failed to excite electorate

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE local government election campaign, which winds up today, has scarcely been worth the name.

For the first fortnight of the campaign, until their poll tax alternative could be revealed, the Tories were fighting a campaign nationally only in the sense that a punchbag fights a boxer. They have held two press conferences to Labour's dozen. It has been a damage-limitation exercise.

The Labour party has used the contest as a dress rehearsal for the general election. It has fought on health and on unemployment, both issues for national government rather than local councils.

All the parties must think seriously about their local election campaigning for the future. Yesterday's lacklustre efforts nationally were boring, predictable rituals.

The Tories continued their theme that Labour local government hits voters' pockets, saying that on average Labour councillors cost £201,460 more than Conservative councillors and that Labour's plans to scrap the Audit Commission and abolish capping would see spending totals soar. But there was not a mention of the quality of life or any improved services to be expected under Tory administrations.

Labour's most voter-friendly shadows, in the shape of Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Margaret Beckett and Bryan Gould, were paraded with yet another batch of sorrowful statistics about job losses and manufacturing investment. In casting doubt on the government's ability to manage the national economy it was effective. In terms of casting doubt on Tory competence in town halls it was almost entirely irrelevant.

Both parties occupied much of their time in sterile argument about details of their poll tax alternatives. But Paddy Ashdown, leader of the

Liberal Democrats, declared yesterday that, while the poll tax had been the over-arching issue as the campaign began, it had been neutralised by sheer confusion in the endless arguments over the details of the alternative plans. Since then, there have been elections without an issue.

Though they like to pretend otherwise, the two main parties have been interested in the battle largely for what it will mean in terms of election tipping. With 30 million elections entitled to vote in 475 parliamentary constituencies



Ashdown: complained of confusion outside London and Scotland, it is the biggest test of opinion since the last general election.

The Tory chairman, Chris Patten, and Labour's campaign director, Jack Cunningham, want to see if tomorrow's results confirm the national opinion polls, which at present have the two main parties level at about 41 per cent, with the Liberal Democrats on 14. They also want to see how the vote compares with the share in the local elections of 1987, when the same council seats were contested and the result came out as Tories 41 per cent, Labour 31 per cent and the SDP/Liberal Alliance 27 per cent.

Labour help for the drinking classes

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government will demand assurances from the brewers that they will keep beer price rises below the rate of inflation, the party leadership promised yesterday.

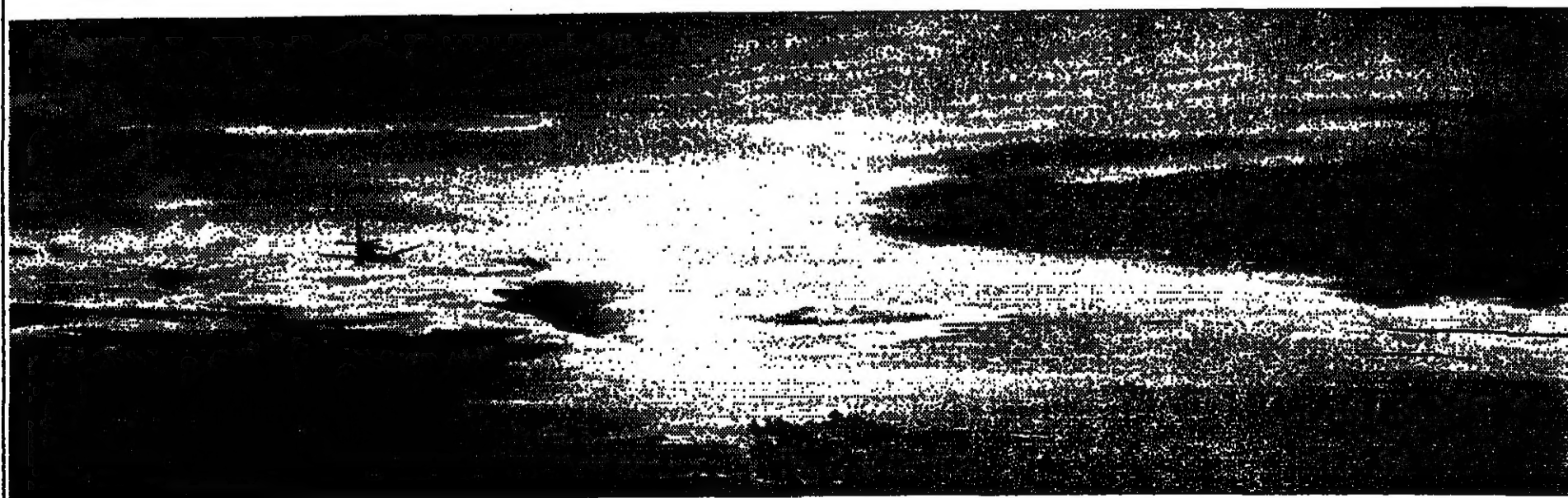
Douglas Henderson, shadow trade and industry minister, staging a news conference from behind the bar of the Westminster Arms, near the Commons, promised action to stop the rot in the brewing industry and to counter runaway price increases. While retail prices generally rose by 142 per cent between 1979 and 1991, beer prices went up by 222 per cent, he said. Ten years ago the average price of a pint was 46p - but now it was £1.21. Government changes to the industry, which followed the Monopolies Commission report on the supply of beer in 1989, had done nothing to cut the price of a pint. He promised an immediate

review by Labour of the government shakeup in which the big brewers were told to stock guest beers and dispose of some of their thousands of tied public houses. That had failed to stem the tide of takeovers and closures in the industry.

The Office of Fair Trading review in 1993-4 would be too late; by then there would be more concentration of ownership, more job losses and less consumer choice. "The brewing industry is being carved up between giant retailing chains and increasingly large brewers", he said. Before the commission reported, the four largest brewers accounted for 58 per cent of the market. The top four now accounted for nearly 70 per cent.

Mr Henderson then committed Labour to seeking assurances from brewers on prices, choice, standards and treatment of tenants.

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Official stoppages and lost work days plummet, Acas reports

Strike total hits 55-year low

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE number of official strikes in Britain last year fell to 611, the lowest total for 55 years, the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) said in its annual report yesterday. There was an average of 2,631 official stoppages a year during the Seventies and 1,129 during the Eighties.

More significantly, as the graph shows, the number of working days lost through industrial action has decreased from 29 million in

1979, leading up to the "winter of discontent", to 1,894,000 last year.

The decline in the number of strikes appears to reflect growing caution by union leaders in the tighter economic climate and the effectiveness of government legislation to curb unofficial action. The last year in which fewer days were lost was 1963, a year of general optimism and hopes of full employment. For example, the 27 million days lost in

1984 takes account of the bitter pit strike, when thousands of miners took action.

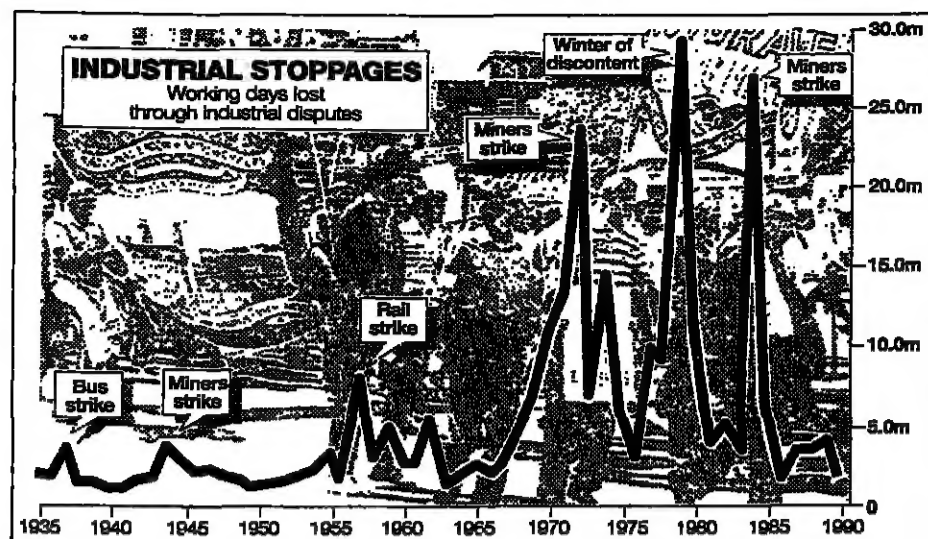
The report says that while union pay claims still sought to match the increase in inflation, it was increasingly the employers' views about what they could afford to compete in the labour market which were the key ingredients in determining increases. Acas said: "It was notable in particular that where employers had been open and frank

about difficult trading circumstances and what might be needed to preserve jobs, lower settlements proved possible."

That meant that pay increases towards the end of the year fell to just below the rate of inflation for the first time since 1982. "There was, however, worrying evidence that the significant improvements in labour productivity achieved from the mid-1980s were slowing," Acas said.

The report said there had been no reduction in demands for collective conciliation. In 1990 Acas received a record 52,071 cases for individual conciliation on claims that statutory employment rights had been infringed. It also received 1,260 requests for collective conciliation in industrial disputes, 8 per cent more than in 1989. Two hundred arbitration and mediation hearings were arranged.

In 85 per cent of all completed collective conciliation cases a settlement or progress towards a settlement was achieved. Only 21 per cent of all individual conciliation cases went to an industrial tribunal for a decision. Equal pay claims were a substantial issue during the year.



Leading article, page 19



Wind ensemble: rehearsals for the Brighton Bottle Orchestra, which attempts on Friday to play the longest rack of bottles, a 75ft line of 444 gin bottles, in a 2½-minute performance at the town's international festival

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Scientist on trail of BSE code might go to US

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A SCIENTIST who claims to have broken the genetic code of the organism that causes "mad cow" disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), says he may have to go to America to complete his work because of the obstacles placed in his way in Britain.

"I think I have identified the agent that causes the disease. I am fairly certain that it is some kind of virus," Harash Narang, a microbiologist at the Newcastle upon Tyne laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service, said yesterday. He believes he is close to establishing the organism's genetic make-up. He says he still has to do tests to prove he has "mapped" the genetic sequence correctly, but he has been ordered to stop further work while its safety is assessed. The tests involved genetic manipulation.

The significance of his work, and his claim that he has shown the organism to be a virus, is that the presence of the disease in live animals could be detected by testing samples of blood or other tissue for the genetic code. At present, BSE can be confirmed only by post-mortem analysis of brain tissue.

Ken Bell, who runs a fish and meat processing and retailing business in Newcastle, has provided £20,000 for Dr Narang's work.

Dr Narang says he has found that purified nucleic acid from the brains of scrapie-infected hamsters had an abnormal "single-strand DNA" structure of a kind

encountered only in a few viruses. DNA, the basic genetic blueprint in all living organisms, usually has a double-strand structure. Scrapie, spongiform encephalopathy in sheep, is thought to have passed to cattle through feed containing sheep remains.

Rape trial called after 29 years

A man is to be tried on charges of rape and indecent assault, the first of which he is alleged to have committed almost 30 years ago.

Sidney John, aged 54, of Islington, north London, is accused of attacking a girl, now aged 35, between 1962 and 1971. He denies the allegations. At the Old Bailey yesterday, Judge Smedley rejected submissions from the defence that the charges were an abuse of legal process and that Mr John would not get a fair trial. The judge said that a trial was in the public interest and should start soon.

Population rise

Scotland's population rose by 11,700 last year — the first increase since 1976 — to a total of 5,102,400. Although there were more deaths than births in Scotland, 13,458 people moved there from overseas and elsewhere in the UK.

Career ruined

Chief Superintendent Alan Thorne, aged 47, who was convicted of a drink-driving related offence earlier this year, was ordered to resign from Gwent police yesterday.

Popular diet

The Bognor Regis War Memorial hospital, which opens its restaurant to the public on Sundays, is having to turn customers away because of a high demand for tables.

Jobs hope

A gas field discovered in Morecambe Bay has raised hope of jobs being created at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.



Narang: claims obstacles put in his way in UK

Trireme centre sunk by lack of sponsors

By PAUL WILKINSON

PLANS for a £12.5 million centre in Plymouth Sound, from which two replicas of ancient Greek war galleys would be sailed, have been abandoned because no commercial sponsors can be found.

The scheme is to be replaced by a £4 million project, but plans for the classic craft, each with three decks of oars, to cruise British waters by 1993 have still been set back by at least a year.

Sean Gallagher, fund-raiser for the Trireme Trust, the charity behind the scheme to reconstruct the elegant but devastating ships that routed the Persian fleet at Salamis in 480 BC, said: "We needed a leisure company which would put around £4 million into the scheme, and operate the commercial side. The recession has knocked the leisure industry flat on its back."

The trust had to give up a site on Drake's Island in Plymouth Sound, where it was planning a boathouse to build and maintain the galleys, a maritime museum and exhibition and accommodation for the hundreds of sportsmen the trust believes want to row the vessels in competition.

Mr Gallagher said that the island, acquired a year ago, had proved too costly in upkeep and transport of materials. "It is a great disappointment, but the project is by no means dead."

The trust was looking for an alternative site on the mainland with "all the facilities we originally envisaged". Several sites were under consideration.

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German car firms face strike threat over 10 pc claim

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AS THE last two-stroke Trabant rolled off the antiquated production line at Zwickau yesterday, workers at western Germany's super-efficient, highly profitable car factories were called out in a series of warning strikes by their union, IG Metall, in support of one of the highest pay claims ever lodged in the country.

The high cost of unification lies behind the dispute, which threatens to wreck government efforts to persuade industry to invest more money in the east. So far the dispute has shut down the lines briefly at places such as Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen and Porsche. IG Metall represents four million engineering workers and acts as a pacesetter for claims in other industries.

Average settlements in western Germany, particularly since large tax increases to pay for unification were announced earlier this year, have been in the order of 6 per cent to 7 per cent, well above

the current inflation rate of 3.5 per cent. Militant, but traditionally restrained by British standards, IG Metall insists that even this average is too low. The union, therefore, has put in a claim for a 10 per cent rise and has refused to negotiate at all on the employers' offer of 4 per cent.

Apart from the car industry, workers in every engineering and electronics firm are being asked to hold a series of short strikes this week and next as a prelude to an all-out stoppage if the offer is not increased substantially. The union claims that the industry has been making large profits recently and can afford to meet the claim in full.

Franz Steinkühler, the union's leader, wrote in *Die Welt* on Monday of the "enormous increase in profits in the past and the good prospects for profit in the future." Industry was making ten times more through sales in the east than it was investing there, he said. It was nonsense to claim that giving workers a

share of the increased profits meant there would be no money left over to help develop the east.

Meanwhile workers in the west were having to finance government investment through higher taxation. "The workforce cannot accept the double burden of tax and social contribution increases on the one side and wage restraint on the other. That only increases the profits of the companies in the west while it fails to create a single job in the east."

The employers have to take IG Metall's threats seriously. In the past decade there have rarely been more than 300,000 working days lost through strikes in western Germany, and the figure usually has been much lower.

Given the prime place of engineering in the German economy, the government can ill afford have the prolonged dispute IG Metall is capable of mounting, although it must be fearful of the consequences if the employers cave in quickly.



Birthday smile: Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands celebrating in the village of Buren yesterday. Although she was born in January, "Queensday" is marked every year on the birthday of her mother, Juliana, the former queen

Keeping the red flag flying for old comrades

From ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

THE Karl Marx Allee which echoed for 40 years to May Day cheers and promises of everlasting commitment to the socialist ideal will be empty today, bar the usual bedraggled shoppers. The stand from which Erich Honecker waved graciously to his citizens, as they paraded in their yearly show of gratitude, has gone, together with the flags which decked the old Stalin Allee.

But on the outskirts of east Berlin, in the Clara Zetkin old people's home, they are not so easily deterred. They will celebrate May 1 as they have always done with speeches and a special lunch and the residents will wear their Orders of Lenin and Marx with a pride that the passing of the socialist state on German soil and the crisis of Soviet communism cannot obliterate.

Only the most honoured of *Altkommunisten* were given a place in the home, run by the old East German council of state, and whose political bias and preferential conditions earned it the nickname "The White House" and "Little Wandlitz" after the compound in which the erstwhile elite lived.

In the entrance hall stands a bust of the leader of the proletarian women's movement after whom the home is named, upstairs a meditative Lenin. On the noticeboard hang letters from old friends in the Soviet Union.

The library is stocked with the biographies of every working-class hero one has ever heard of and many one has not, but the director, Annette Wilkendorf, is sticking firmly to the old ways. "These are elderly people who have carried their ideals through the worst of times," she said. "Many have been in concentration camps and prisons during the Third Reich, some were imprisoned or exiled in Stalin's Russia too. They deserve a peaceful old age in familiar surroundings."

A delegation from the west Berlin city authorities recently dropped in to assess the home and gawped at the display of socialist memorabilia. Frau Wilkendorf informed them that it was an essential contribution to the residents' well-being. "It will go only when they want it to, and they don't," she said.

A former politburo member, Erich Mückenberger, moved here after the fall of the regime and lived in withdrawn

bewilderment at the fate of East Germany. In a small suite lives Benny Heumann, a half-Russian architect, who as the child of one of the original Bolsheviks spent hours in Lenin's company in the Soviet Union and in Swiss exile and recalls proudly that he knew the revolutionary leader better than anyone else still alive. "He was a simple man with no time for pretence or wishful thinking," he recalled. "He must have turned in his grave when he saw what became of his vision of a socialist society."

For Herr Heumann and his ilk, the collapse of socialism has been the annulment of a life's work.

East Europe workers, page 18

Quake toll in Georgia reaches 100

Moscow — Thousands of Soviet soldiers who are struggling to impose Moscow's will on rebellious Georgia yesterday switched to the gruesome task of retrieving bodies from the earthquake zone where at least 100 people have died (Bruce Clark writes).

Helicopters, tents, field kitchens and medical centres were hastily diverted to rescue work in the foothills of the Caucasus as it became clear that several remote towns had been devastated by the quake. Confirmation of the death toll came from the Georgian foreign ministry, which said 85 per cent of the buildings had been destroyed in the towns of Oni and Sachkhere.

Bomb deaths

Bilbao — Three people have been killed and three injured by bomb explosions in Bilbao and towns near by. Police said the three dead, whose charred bodies were recovered from a car, may have been left-wing guerrillas who had earlier set off bombs at a Bilbao company and a local employment office. (Reuters)

Spelling block

Paris — More than eight out of ten French people cannot spell the name of their president, François Mitterrand, according to a survey carried out for *Paris Match* magazine. (Reuters)

Poison pen letters set village at odds

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AFTER ten years of relentless persecution, the inhabitants of a tiny French village have learned the identity of the person responsible for bombarding them with cruel anonymous denunciations.

The arrest of someone who had lived among them for 30 years finally brought to an end a saga of jealousy, deceit and betrayal that might have been plucked from one of Balzac's darker chronicles of rural France.

With families in fear of long-buried secrets being uncovered, the malicious gossip and accusation from "le corbeau" — the crow — had made life almost intolerable in Vensat, in the Puy-de-Dôme region of central France. Delivered in the post, slipped under front doors, muttered on the telephone, every denunciation intensified suspicion between the 400 people in the tight-knit community.

Emile Brunier, a builder, was the first to suffer, receiving letter after letter calling him a thief, a cheat and a liar. The crow seemed to know everything about the Brunier family history, from the distant relative who was caught stealing in a supermarket to the farmer grandfather accused of fiddling the weight of his potatoes by lining sacks with earth.

The thought that the denunciations must be coming from somebody very close to the family made them even harder to bear. Soon the crow was writing to his neighbours as well, issuing vicious and pornographic onslaughts against the supposed turpitude of the Bruniers. Then others in Vensat began to suffer, a husband opening the post to find his wife branded as "a slut who opens her legs to anybody", a mother slyly reminded of an illicit abortion she had years earlier.

When Pierre Cornet, the

mayor of Vensat and a teacher, received his first letter from the crow, he went to the local police. Perhaps because he had lived there only 20 years — still an outsider in the village's eye — the complaint seemed to be shelved.

The house of a former mayor was searched; nothing incriminating was discovered, but the crow was not heard from for another three months.

Then the poison pen offensive resumed with increased venom; hand-lettered sheets of cardboard repeating the same lurid accusations and insults began to appear around the village, hung from trees and fences or scattered in ditches. With that, the mayor sent for the judicial police from the nearest town: they were eager to help, M Cornet said, but incapable of breaking down barriers within the wary and troubled community.

Only when detailed death threats began to arrive for the most regular targets was a full-scale police operation launched. Forced by extra surveillance into increasingly using the telephone, the crow was finally caught in the act and charged.

It was Marie-Louise, wife of a nephew of M Brunier. Aged in her mid-fifties with a grown family, she was much admired in Vensat for religious devotion and proper ways, and was herself the subject of death threats.

Was it all motivated by sheer envy, the vice of rural France some would say, or could there have been a deeper and more sinister conspiracy that has yet to emerge? After all, some villagers argue, how could one person have discovered so much about their secrets and single-handedly kept Vensat on edge for 30 long?

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Cath Shaw reckons the new Abbey National Investment Account is even more competitive than she is. What really won her over though, was special access twice a year. Now she'll be able to nip off for an amateur trophy or two at Gleneagles.

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NALGO

Wary Cambodians pray for fragile ceasefire to hold

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN ANGKOR WAT, CAMBODIA

MILLIONS of Cambodians who survived the Killing Fields were burning incense and praying in once-ruined temples yesterday that the first ceasefire in the bloody 12-year-old civil war would take hold and that it could be a harbinger of peace. But there was a wariness born of many past disappointments and over the tenuous nature of the truce.

The temporary ceasefire, proposed by Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, secretary-general of the United Nations, involved the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh regime and the coalition of three guerrilla factions, including the Chinese-supported Khmer Rouge. It has been accepted by all four factions.

In the ancient temple of Angkor Wat near the war zone in northwest Cambodia, Sun Lap, aged 54, who had cycled 53 miles over roads pitted with mine craters and around broken bridges, lit a candle in front of a statue of Vishnu, a Hindu deity, and said: "If only this means the war would end, then I could die happy. I have known no peace for 20 years."

However, Cambodians have endured so many let-downs over the past few years that there was little optimism in this country of eight million, where up to one million people died in the period of

Khmer Rouge rule from 1975 to late 1978, and where war since has turned much of the countryside into a wasteland.

But people were hoping for the best and were flocking to the now renovated pagodas once despoiled by the Khmer Rouge.

Diplomats and foreign relief agency officials in Phnom Penh, the capital, were not particularly optimistic either that Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's initiative, made with the co-chairman of the Paris international conference on Cambodia, Indonesia and France, would work but thought it worth a try. "If it lasts more than one week it might create a momentum," said one foreign relief agency official guardedly.

The same kind of cautious sentiment was expressed yesterday in the Siem Reap provincial hospital near the 12th century Angkor ruins. Its rows of beds with straw mats instead of sheets are filled with men, women and children who had been blown up by mines or hit by shrapnel. Many had only stumps for arms or legs.

The hospital director, Dr Chany Tech, aged 45, said of his patients' reaction to news of the ceasefire: "If Cambodians are thinking of a ceasefire they are thinking about a peaceful solution. That, at

least, is a positive development." Luam Liem, aged 33, a farmer whose leg was injured by a mine he stepped on in the forest near his home and was later amputated, expressed the doubt that is common: "I don't believe 100 per cent that it means peace, but it is something."

Phil Phal, aged 22, wounded by shrapnel when the Khmer Rouge shelled his village, said: "I believe there is a 50-50 chance for peace."

Foreign diplomats in Phnom Penh pointed out that there was no supervisory body to monitor the ceasefire and report violations and no provision for the cessation of arms supplies to the four warring factions. Phnom Penh is supplied by Vietnam, while China provides most of the military hardware for the Khmer Rouge.

The ceasefire is to last provisionally until the leaders of the four warring factions meet in Indonesia later this month for the latest round of peace talks aimed at a settlement brokered by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

In an interview, Leng Vi, party chief of Siem Reap province, said: "We are in a position of readiness. We will never give the first blow to the Khmer Rouge. We will wait for them to attack first."



Home and dry: Isabelle Antier, of France, being greeted by friends and relations in Newport, Rhode Island, as the first woman to finish in the BOC around-the-world yacht race. She began her voyage on September 15 last year

Taiwan admits end of Peking 'rebellion'

By CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING AND DAVID WATTS IN LONDON

AFTER 43 years, Taiwan finally bowed to the inevitable when President Lee Teng-hui announced yesterday that the "period of Communist rebellion" on the mainland was at an end.

It is not that the Communists have been ousted from power in Peking. Rather, the Taiwan govern-

ment has decided that it can no longer describe China's rulers of more than 40 years as upstarts and interlopers.

The "period of communist rebellion" also saddled Taiwan with a fossilised political system, and its abolition opens the way for radical reform. Until now, the Nationalists in Taiwan have

blindly kept up the facade of the "rebellion". Even now, the president has not acknowledged the legitimacy of the Communist government in Peking, only its existence.

While the end of the "period of rebellion" is a conciliatory gesture to Peking, it is likely to have a much deeper impact on Taiwan's internal political re-

form. At the end of an extraordinary session of the National Assembly, the president gave a press conference. He said he had ordered by decree that from today not only is the "rebellion" a thing of the past, but the emergency measures passed in Taiwan to keep order during the "rebellion" are rescinded.

For Taiwan, it is also a means of signalling to the mainland Chinese that there is a maturing state that must be taken seriously. Its economic credentials are impressive, with no foreign debt and the highest foreign currency reserves in the world - now outstripping even Japan - at \$76 billion (\$45 billion).

The Taiwanese, too, see the end of the rebellion as a boost not only to trade, but in interchange between the Communist mainland and the democratising Taiwanese.

Abolition of the anti-communist laws means mainlanders will be able to travel freely to the island and help ease relations, in the transitional period, between Hong Kong, Macau, and Peking.

The implication is that "one China, two realities" might eventually become one reality in favour of the democrats. "I'm optimistic because the older generation is dying off in Peking and the young people realise that democracy is better than dictatorship," said Taiwan's representative in London, Raymond Tai. "We think the three Chinas will be able to help them."

The removal of outmoded laws was just the first stage for Taiwan and the next would be to choose between the Westminster and American models of democracy, he added.

Country cut off by killer cyclone

Delhi - At least 1,200 people died and hundreds of thousands were made homeless yesterday when the most powerful cyclone to hit Bangladesh in its 20-year history tore through coastal areas and offshore islands (Christopher Thomas writes).

The battering lasted for seven hours. Dhaka officials said the final tally of dead might be in the thousands.

Chittagong, the second largest city, was under three feet of seawater and thousands of people were stranded on rooftops. A satellite telecommunications dish was toppled in 150 mph winds, leaving the country cut off from outside contact. Islands in the Bay of Bengal were severely battered, but with communications down the extent of damage was unknown. One report said 12 islands were inundated.

The armed forces, police, coast guard and fire service were mobilised in a massive relief effort. "We cannot yet assess the need for assistance," a government official said.

Scores of fishing boats are missing in the Bay of Bengal. Before the cyclone struck 100,000 people were moved into shelters and others were told over loudspeakers to take cover.

Regum Khalida Zia, the prime minister, flew over devastated areas by helicopter yesterday. Parliament has been suspended until Friday to allow MPs to assess the damage. Save the Children announced last night that it would be providing £250,000 to help the victims.

Rebels clash

Srinagar - Two militant groups fighting Indian rule in Kashmir clashed for a second successive day, police said. Muhammad Saleem, a commander of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, was killed in the clash with the Hizbul Mujahidin, which wants Kashmir to become part of Pakistan. (Reuters)

Cholera toll

Geneva - A total of 169,265 cases of cholera have been recorded in Peru, with 1,244 deaths in the past five days, the World Health Organisation reported. There were 1,107 confirmed cases with 140 deaths in Ecuador, 189 cases with five deaths in Colombia and 26 cases and one death in Chile. (AFP)

Spirit of justice

Sydney - An Australian man won a new trial after a sheriff's officer told the appeal court that two women members of the jury, which convicted him of obtaining valuables by deception, were drunk, almost comatose, as they deliberated his case. (Reuters)

Eight journalists were completely carried away by the Previa's handling.



泰

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Shades of Dukakis on campaign trail

FROM PETER STOTHEARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

UMBRELLAS and dark glasses were the preferred accessories in Lowell, Massachusetts, yesterday as former senator Paul Tsongas became the first Democrat to declare his candidacy for the 1992 presidential race. The umbrellas were because it was raining, the dark glasses because prudent campaigners were wise to disguise support for Mr Tsongas that may soon have to be transferred.

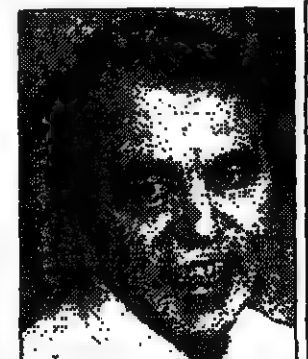
These are miserable times for Democrats seeking national office. Today, Mr Tsongas sets off for a five-day tour of seven states, including Iowa and New Hampshire, which normally at this stage of the political cycle would be crowded with competing candidates. This week, Mr Tsongas is likely to be alone, with some company perhaps from George McGovern.

Both men are attempting to be the Lazarus of the 1990s. Mr McGovern, by rejoining political life after his destruction by Richard Nixon in 1972, Mr Tsongas by leaving behind the lymphatic cancer which forced his retirement from the Senate in 1984.

Yesterday, Mr Tsongas told a small hometown crowd and a breakfast television audience that he wanted a return to "the values of our ancestors" and an end to "Washington mediocrity". In the past he has called himself a "business Democrat", emphasising his support for wealth creation as a contrast to the views of the Rev Jesse Jackson and the party's liberal wing. But, yesterday,

with liberal activists predominating among those in the rain, he concentrated on higher ideals, calling for a campaign to pass on old American values to the children of tomorrow. He called for an end to the "instant gratification" of the Bush and Reagan years and for a long-term policy to restore American greatness.

Sadly for his chances, Mr Tsongas's ancestors are



Tsongas: first Democrat to set out his wares

Greek, which after the 1988 humiliation of Michael Dukakis, another Greek liberal Democrat from Massachusetts, is about as bad as one can be.

In private he is a subtle, self-deprecating man who has a detailed economic programme of public and private partnership and tax incentives for research and education.

However, in the public life of a presidential campaign, an 83-page policy document is lead around a candidate's neck. A history of medical problems is a millstone too.

*Model featured Previa £18,898. Price includes car tax and VAT, but excludes metallic paint, delivery charges of £298 (inc VAT), number plates, road fund licence and incidental dealer charges. Automatic available at extra cost. Call 0737 768585 for Tax-Free Export Sales. Price correct at time of going to press. See your local dealer for details.

TVS

سكاي من النهر

Africa caught in a terrible vortex of disaster

ALMOST every conceivable natural and man-made disaster has contributed to the famine now ravaging Africa and hindered the distribution of relief aid.

Drought, famine and disease have led to failed harvests, depleted stocks and a weakened workforce. Torrential rains have flooded villages, washing away roads and bridges. Overpopulation has strained delicate eco-systems, and the sub-Saharan population is expected to double to 405 million in the decade up to 1995. The cutting of trees for fuel is leaving the land without shelter and allowing the soil to erode.

The suffering continent is further pillaged by civil war. Farmers flee the land that quickly reverts to desert or scrub. Transport systems are disrupted. Local administrators abandon their villages and civil order breaks down. Doctors and vets leave, and cattle and humans die. Locust plagues are unchecked and are now threatening the Horn of Africa. As if all that were not enough, the water supplies are also infected.

Man-made disasters gather pace in a terrible vortex. Misadministration and corruption swallow desperately needed aid money. Governments lack funds to modernise ports, equip hospitals or pay experts. Tribalism and political instability disrupt all development plans and keep away the very agencies that are equipped to combat the famine now threatening 29 million people.

Aid agencies have to fight on all these fronts at once. The worst affected areas are those where drought and crop failures coincide with civil wars

Michael Binyon reports on the host of man-made and natural obstacles impeding the relief effort in Africa

In countries where the governments are unwilling or unable to accept outside help: Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique, Angola and Liberia. The six countries need \$1 billion (about £1.68 billion) of food, and almost all their people are at risk. Desertification is gathering pace in the Sahel, and if the summer rains fail for the third time, widespread starvation is also likely in Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Mauritania.

The distribution of relief is the biggest challenge for all the agencies. Africa is poorly served by transport links and the few railways in the Sudan, Mozambique and Angola have been repeatedly sabotaged. In the poorest countries the roads are mostly unmade. When the rains come in the Sudan, many roads will be impassable and only four-wheel vehicles carrying no more than five tonnes can make it through to Dufur, a province the size of France where two million people are at risk.

The sheer size of a country like Sudan means that it could take a month for a return trip from the coast to the target area. Another difficulty is fuel: most African countries are short of petrol, and fuel has to be taken on all relief trips.

Since air distribution is prohibitively expensive, food aid must go by ship. The ports are, however, clogged and

antiquated. At Port Sudan, where only a few ships can dock at a time, there is little storage capacity and huge amounts of food, which has to be unloaded and begged for shipment, can be ruined during the rainy season.

More modern ports such as Mombassa are too far away. Some, such as Massawa in Ethiopia, are in rebel hands - although relief agencies won agreement from the rebels and the Mengistu government in March last year to be able to move aid through the "southern line" corridor.

Civil war and political instability have taken a deadly toll. In Ethiopia, where conflict is almost endemic, a modus vivendi has almost been worked out by the aid agencies with the various factions: the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, the Tigray People's Liberation Front and the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front. In Somalia, however, where the fall of Siad Barre has led to factional disputes among the former opposition, there is virtually no civil law and roaming gangs have forced almost all Western medical and aid teams to leave.

Liberia is also taking time to recover from its bloody civil war, and fighting continues in Angola and Mozambique. Within and around all these countries, refugees are seeking shelter in temporary camps. About 750,000 fled Liberia for Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast, straining resources there. In Angola up to 1.9 million people have been displaced internally. In Sudan and Ethiopia refugees have crossed the border in both directions and more than 4 million people have had to move in Mozambique.

In the absence of civil order, banditry is beginning to hamper some relief operations, although big agencies such as Oxfam and Save the Children travel in convoys and take what their spokesmen called "sensible precautions".

The misallocation of scarce resources is one of the main factors contributing to Africa's poverty. Its debt now stands at \$270 billion. Arms budgets have increased up to ten times as fast as incomes growth in the past decade, and now account for almost half the gross national product of some countries. Western investment is low, and development aid, especially that granted by the European Community under the Lomé Convention, does not keep pace with the growing gap with the rest of the world. Trade is stagnant, and at a local level trade patterns, encouraging economic growth, have been disrupted by war.

Finally, politics and suspicion of the West bedevil much help. The Sudanese government refused to admit that there was a famine for a long time, and it would not issue visas to key relief personnel. Bureaucracy is often cumbersome in Africa. It can be speeded up, but only where there is political will.



Village of despair: hungry Sudanese children waiting for lifesaving rations in 1988. The civil war and drought contributing to chronic shortages of food then are just as real and pressing now

Oxfam pledges all appeal funds will go on relief

By OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

OXFAM promises that every penny of every pound contributed to its African famine appeal will be used on the ground where it is needed.

The African appeals use different methods but most appear to be tackling the widespread criticism that too many resources are taken up by administration. None of the aid will come a moment too soon, with the news yesterday that Ethiopia has only ten days' food supply left, both in the hands of the agencies and the government.

"People want to know that all the money's being spent there," said Anna Feuchtwang, a spokeswoman for Oxfam, explaining its policy of channelling cash from special appeals solely into the designated area. Administrative and other costs to get help to Africa will be met out of the charity's general funds in Britain. Oxfam says that underlines the need for constant replenishment of the fund to support special appeals.

Oxfam says that 20p of every £1 is needed to bring in the next £1 contributed. In the present appeal for £2.5 million, three-fifths will be spent on food and the other £1 million on transport.

The charity has raised £8 million to date for its Crisis in Africa appeal.

The Save the Children Fund has never tackled anything quite like its "Skip lunch - save a life" appeal for Africa. "We recognized that it wasn't business as usual," it said. At the fund, 67p of every pound goes to overseas causes, 21p helps children in Britain, and 12p goes on administration and fund raising.

Dr Savimbi foresaw a wealthy democratic future with free elections, probably in 1992, and a free press providing the underpinning for a market economy with the means to exploit Angola's natural resources of oil, diamonds and coffee.

The Unita and MPLA land forces will be merged with about half the 40-50,000 men being provided by each party to the agreement. The MPLA will continue to run the day-to-day affairs of the government until the elections.

Promise of end to 30 years of war

By DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

FORSAKING his trademark beret and bandolier for a dark blue Mao suit and red silk handkerchief Jonas Savimbi yesterday announced the end of 30 years of war in Angola and plans for democracy.

A pact between the two warring factions, Dr Savimbi's Unita and the MPLA government is expected to be signed in Lisbon shortly. That should be followed by the formal signing of a ceasefire at the end of next month closing off one of the continent's most bitter and protracted colonial and later superpower proxy wars.

The ending of hostilities is the fruit of the better relationship between America and the Soviet Union. The ceasefire ceremony will be attended not only by Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, and James Baker, the American Secretary of State, but also by Javier Pérez de Cuellar, secretary-general of the United Nations.

Although unstated by Dr Savimbi, the ending of South African aid to Unita has played probably as big a role as have the winds of democracy blowing through eastern Europe which have ended help for the MPLA from the former Soviet satellites.

Dr Savimbi admitted yesterday that the two sides had basically fought each other to a standstill and recognized that the only way out of the impasse was through a political agreement brokered by the superpowers. The last stages of that agreement have been under negotiation in Lisbon in recent weeks but, as he also admitted, the fighting has not yet ended. The two sides had two big clashes in February and March.

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The Unita and MPLA land forces will be merged with about half the 40-50,000 men being provided by each party to the agreement. The MPLA will continue to run the day-to-day affairs of the government until the elections.



Look of starvation: a mother taking her malnourished child to a clinic, run by the Save the Children Fund, at the Elit Kueha refugee camp in Sudan

Dazed ANC prisoners take ferry to freedom

From GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

THE gloomiest craft in South Africa is a squat, iron ferry-boat with a rusting blue hull named after Diaz, the Portuguese navigator. Over the years, it has conveyed thousands of passengers to a bleak, wind-swept outcrop of rock six miles off Cape Town.

A different mood prevailed when it chugged into its berth beneath Table Mountain soon after dawn yesterday and

came alongside a plain building declaring "Embarkation Office - Robben Island". On board were ten members of the African National Congress, freed on the deadline of an agreement to release political prisoners in exchange for the ANC's suspension of its "armed struggle".

Among them was Ashley Forbes, a young Coloured man who is something of a

hero in the western Cape. An ANC guerrilla commander, he was sentenced to 24 years' imprisonment in December 1988 for grenade attacks on police stations and a bomb explosion near the presidential residence in Cape Town.

As the group of subdued men stepped ashore, carrying their belongings in cardboard boxes, a small crowd of relatives and friends broke into ANC chants and the victory song of its armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe. The former inmates appeared dazed by their freedom. Then a delegation of the ANC women's league began singing a hymn, emotions welled up on both sides, and tears flowed freely.

After a brief reunion, a minibus took them to a church mission, followed by a cavalcade of cars flying ANC flags and blaring horns. Among the first to greet them was Paul Langa, aged 42, a former fellow prisoner, who was freed on Saturday after serving 14 years of a 25-year sentence for terrorism. Mr Langa, an Umkhonto cadre, has had time to emerge from the euphoria of his release and come to terms with the "new" South Africa being forged in tough political negotiations and violence.

He is appalled by the attacks and killings wracking townships around Johannesburg and in Natal. "Apartheid created a culture of violence in our country. It hardened you to suffering and death. The problem now is to stop the killing which only serves political purposes, and first we must bury all this hatred and learn again to value our lives."

A further 16 inmates were due to be freed later yesterday, leaving only about 30 political prisoners on the island. The human rights commission claims there are still almost 1,000 people in prison for political offences, but the government says there are only about 200.

Coup ousts junta in Lesotho

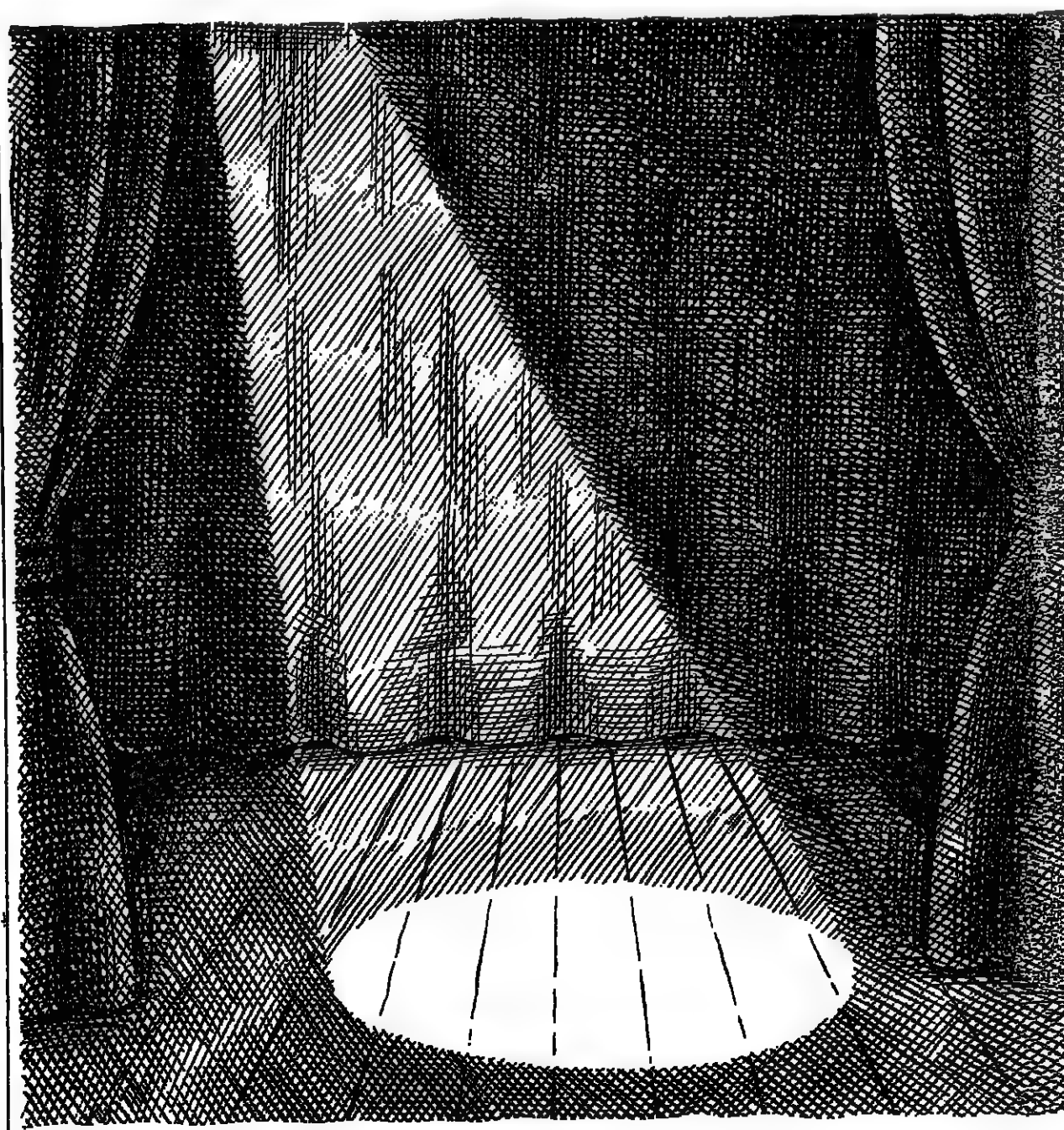
Johannesburg - The military junta in Lesotho was overthrown yesterday in an apparently bloodless coup. Amid confusion and uncertainty, it appears that the junta has been replaced by another group of military officers in the country which is surrounded by South Africa (Ray Kennedy writes).

Major-General Justin Lekhanya, leader of the military council that has ruled for five years, was led into the radio station in Maseru, the capital, by troops as his resignation statement, recorded earlier, was broadcast. Mlle Taela, the general secretary of the Christian Council of Lesotho, said the general did not mention who was taking over. The speech had sounded as if it was being read under duress.

Ethiopian battle
Nairobi - Ethiopian rebels said they killed 850 government troops and wounded more than 500 when they repulsed an army attack near the government's biggest arms factory at Horamat, southwest of Addis Ababa. The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front captured Horamat last week.

Sudan amnesty
Nicosia - Omar Hassan al-Bashir, the Sudanese military ruler, said he was freeing Sadiq al-Mahdi, the former prime minister, from house arrest in Khartoum, the Sudan news agency, Sana, reported. He also announced an amnesty for "those who carried arms against the revolution" and for opposition politicians abroad. (Reuters)

Aids generation
Geneva - More than ten million African babies born over the next decade will be HIV carriers, and more than one million people south of the Sahara had Aids by the start of the year, the World Health Organisation said. (AFP)



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UN stakes its claim to protect the Kurds

From Adam Kellner in Zakho

THE United Nations raised its light blue pennant in northern Iraq, hoping the emblem will convince Kurdish refugees they can return home without ever incurring the wrath of President Saddam Hussein. The flag fluttered at a point on the outskirts of Zakho under allied control, as two convoys of relief supplies — one from Turkey and the second from Baghdad — met to symbolise the UN's ability to deal with the Kurdish emergency from both sides of the border.

Berni Bernander, the UN special envoy appointed to oversee the Iraqi relief operation, said the first post in northern Iraq "marks the beginning of what we hope will be an effective UN presence in the region to induce the people to move down from the mountains and into their homes". In a field of poppies beneath the flag, American troops erected tents to house UN workers who are expected within a week to take over the running of refugee camps from soldiers in the allied safe haven zone. If all goes according to plan, there will soon be at least 25 UN posts established both in the safe havens and territory controlled by the Iraqi government.

"The message is that the UN has arrived," said Staffan de Mistura, a UN envoy co-ordinating the efforts from the Turkish side. "The fact that a UN flag has been raised will help. We intend to stay to do our job."

But it will take more than a blue flag to entice the Kurds back into Iraq. The allied military presence in Zakho has reassured about 75 per cent of the people to return, including young men, who are a rare sight in deserted northern Iraq.

French troops escorted hundreds of refugees into the tent

cities. The town enjoyed a relaxed air, with children enjoying the bizarre antics of soldiers, aid workers and journalists, who almost outnumbered the residents.

The safe havens address the immediate misery of those on the hills, but the zones will not cure the widespread fear that Kurdish refugees venturing further south face.

Outside Zakho, American Marines sat on a ridge viewing the rolling grasslands that extend hundreds of miles into Iraq. But down the road about 10 miles away was the first Iraqi checkpoint. The soldiers there were unarmed, except for a trooper manning a heavy machinegun post while his colleagues paddled in a nearby stream. Traffic was waved through by a Republican Guard standing beside a rusty oil barrel. It all appeared very benign, but crossing this no man's land will be a feat of confidence thousands more Kurds will have to achieve if the safe haven zone is to be merely a transit stop rather than a permanent residence.

Mr Bernander believed that once the refugees flowed into the havens, they will be in closer contact with those who have entered Iraq and who can vouch whether a government amnesty is being honoured.

"There will be a pull of people," the Swedish official said. "That is my judgment."

The UN personnel in Iraq will be unarmed and without the means to protect any refugees. In the short term, this may not matter, as Baghdad is making every effort to show the world that revenge is not part of its plans, with Saddam struggling to recover from the war and internal revolt. In the long term, when the troops have gone, one wonders what is to save these people from each other?

Letters, page 19



Long descent: Kurdish refugees, in an assortment of vehicles, leaving their mountain retreats for the safe havens set up by the allies in northern Iraq. Refugees, who had fled Iraq from President Saddam Hussein's army, are now returning at a rate of nearly 20,000 a day

MAN IN THE NEWS

High-profile prince directs soap opera

From James Bone in New York

PRINCE Sadruddin Aga Khan's involvement in the United Nations relief effort in Iraq has turned the operation into something of a UN soap opera. Known to his friends as "Saddi" but in UN circles simply as "the prince", he has clashed with almost all the key figures involved.

The root of the problems, UN officials think, is the prince's long-standing ambition to become UN secretary-general, a post which falls open at the end of the year.

Born in Paris in 1933, he is a scion of the extraordinary family which heads the 20 million-strong Ismaili sect scattered across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. He is

the son of the late Aga Khan III and Andrée Josephine Carron, a French beauty queen, and his nephew is the present Aga Khan IV. His late half brother, Aly Khan, was married to Rita Hayworth, the film star. Prince Sadruddin himself was once married to the former British model, Nina Dyer, formerly the wife of the German industrialist, Baron Heinrich von Thyssen.

Educated at Harvard, he joined the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in 1958, and has worked in the UN system ever since, spending 12 years as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. In 1981, he was Javier Pérez de

Cuñer's closest rival for the post of UN secretary-general when voting was thrown open after 16 inconclusive rounds of balloting between the incumbent, Kurt Waldheim of Austria, and Salim Salim of Tanzania.

But Prince Sadruddin's candidacy was blocked by at least one veto, widely assumed to have been cast by the Soviet Union, which regarded him as too pro-Western. A personal friend and tennis partner of President Bush, the prince from time to time offers his advice on Middle East problems involving America and is said to have received strong American support when seeking UN assignments. It is even believed that West-

ington might promote him as a possible compromise candidate as secretary-general later this year.

Senior UN officials say, however, that despite his high profile, his management skills are questionable. Prince Sadruddin was first named to head the UN relief effort in the Gulf last September, while he was still co-ordinating a similar UN operation in Afghanistan. His title was personal representative of the UN secretary-general for humanitarian assistance relating to the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. But he resigned that post in March after Señor Pérez de Cuñer appointed another UN official, Marti Ahtisaari, as his special co-

voy to assess war damage in Iraq. Mr Ahtisaari, a Finn, is also regarded as an unofficial candidate in this year's race for the secretary-generalship.



Prince Sadruddin: friend of President Bush

Police force idea backed

HANS-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, yesterday gave strong support to the British plan for a United Nations police force for northern Iraq (Michael Blayon writes). He played down criticism of the plan by some UN officials, saying it had the full support of the European Community and he was sure that it would win UN backing after closer study.

After wide-ranging talks in London with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, Herr Genscher announced that he would visit Iran next week. Germany has sent the bulk of its relief for Kurdish refugees to Iran because it believes the need there is greatest.

Herr Genscher said Germany fully supported the strengthening of the UN, but had no interest in seeking a permanent seat for itself on the security council. He said that with the evolution of a joint European Community foreign policy, Germany's views could be properly expressed by the two permanent EC members on the security council, Britain and France.

Ozal warning

Ankara — A UN peacekeeping force would not be enough to guarantee the safe return of Kurdish refugees to northern Iraq, President Ozal of Turkey said here. He said such a force had been unable to protect Turkish Cypriots before 1974, and it was only after the de facto division of Cyprus that they felt secure.

Troops hired

London — British troops are to be used by a private firm on contract to help clear mines and unexploded bombs in Kuwait. The deal, reportedly worth up to £100 million, involves Royal Ordnance, a subsidiary of British Aerospace, and Royal Engineers.

Pollution threat

Geneva — Fifty 50 Kuwaiti oil fires are put out monthly, but the 500 left cause as much pollution as all the world's vehicles. World Meteorological Organisation scientists say.

LEGAL NOTICES

To the shareholders of GN Great Nordic

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held on Thursday 23 May 1991 at 3.30 pm at Industriens Hus, H.C. Andersens Boulevard 18, DK-1596 Copenhagen V, to transact the following business:

- To receive and consider the report for the year ended 31 December 1990.
- To receive and adopt the annual financial statements and discharge the Board of Directors and the Management from their obligations.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution for the distribution of the net profit for the year, including the declaration of a dividend on the shares of the Company.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution to increase the share capital of the Company through an issue of bonus shares of DKK 20 and at the same time reduce the par value of the Company's shares from DKK 180 to DKK 100 per share.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution to amend the Company's Articles of Association. In addition to the amendments arising from the adoption of item d. above, this resolution is primarily designed to prolong and expand the Directors' authority to increase the share capital of the Company and also aims at removing the stipulation which requires the submission to the General Meeting of proxy forms and lists of all shareholders to whom admission cards have been issued.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution proposed by the Board of Directors that the Company be entitled to acquire up to 10 per cent of its own shares.
- To elect Directors of the Company.
- To appoint two auditors for the current financial year.

For the passing of the resolutions set out under items d. and e. on the agenda, it is required under Article 18 of the Articles of Association that not less than one quarter of the share capital be represented at the General Meeting and that the resolution be approved by not less than two thirds of the votes cast and two thirds of the voting share capital represented at the General Meeting. In the event that the required percentage of the share capital is not represented, but where the resolution has been approved by the above-mentioned qualified majority of votes, the resolution may, however, be finally passed at a new general meeting convened for the transaction of this business by the said qualified majority, irrespective of the percentage of the voting share capital represented at the General Meeting.

From Wednesday 15 May 1991 the agenda and the full and complete resolutions to be proposed at the General Meeting, as well as the annual financial statements and consolidated accounts with the Auditors' Report and the Report of the Directors will be available for inspection by the shareholders at the Company's registered office at Kongens Nytorv 26, second floor, and in London and Paris, and not later than eight days prior to the General Meeting the said material will be posted to any shareholder on the Company's register of members to such address as has been given to the Company.

Admission cards to the General Meeting will, until five days prior to the meeting, be available at request from the Company's office on all weekdays (excluding Saturdays) between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm to any shareholder who can produce a good title to his shares. As far as bearer shares are concerned, the shareholder shall prove his title to such shares by presenting a statement of his holding of shares in the Company as at 8 May 1991, issued by the shareholder's account-holding bank.

Any right to vote shall be conditional upon the voting share being registered in the name of the shareholder and entered in the register of members maintained by the Company and upon the shareholder being entitled to attend the meeting pursuant to the above-mentioned provisions. Where the shareholder has acquired the share by way of transfer, the share shall furthermore have been registered in the name of the shareholder for not less than three months prior to the date of the General Meeting.

No director is employed with the Company under a contract of service.

Copenhagen, May 1991
The Board of Directors

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
GRIPPERDROG
INTERNATIONAL PLC
Registered number 018877
Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
11. The Administrative Receiver is: GRIPPERDROG INTERNATIONAL PLC
12. The Administrative Receiver is: GRIPPERDROG INTERNATIONAL PLC
13. The Administrative Receiver is: GRIPPERDROG INTERNATIONAL PLC

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 4.108
OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
JOHN H. PRIESTLEY OF 202
QUEEN STREET, SHEFFIELD S1 3JF
AND SHARON A. PRIESTLEY OF 202
QUEEN STREET, SHEFFIELD S1 3JF
WILL ACT AS JOINT LIQUIDATORS
OF THE ABOVE COMPANY FROM
THE DATE OF THEIR APPOINTMENT
ON 12th April 1991.
DATED 12th April 1991
J H PRIESTLEY
JOINT LIQUIDATORS

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STUDENT RECRUITMENT IS NO JOKE THESE DAYS

Don't make the same mistake some employers did last year. They didn't exhibit at DIRECTIONS, which was bad enough in itself. But what really took the smile off their faces, was the fact that the competition did.

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27, 28, 29 JUNE 1991

سونا من الامل

Now out on video, the mission

A stand-up comedian turned vicar is spreading the word of God with his own high-tech videos. Ruth Gledhill reports

The Rev Lawrie Adam, a former comedian and theatrical impresario, and now a Church of England vicar, could make his diocese the first to have its own television show. As the founder of Blackburn Diocese Tele-Video (BDTV), he is making videos for churches and charities throughout the country and producing programmes for satellite television.

The diocese has moved Mr Adam's studios from his vicarage at Scorton, near Lancaster, where he was until recently priest-in-charge, to a renovated barn in the grounds of the ruined Whalley Abbey, a 12th century Cistercian monastery. A Christian trust helped finance his high-technology studio. His literature carries the unlikely-sounding slogan: "A professional video facility provided by the Church of England Blackburn Diocese."

One recent BDTV production cost £500,000 in two months. Mr Adam, aged 52, is negotiating a regular half-hour slot on cable and is making a series of videos to help with confirmation class. His programmes already go out regularly on Olympus satellite television. He says: "I want to see the Gospel going out in any way I can. I am prepared

to provide sensible Christian programmes for free."

He is anything but a televangelist: his background is Anglo-Catholic and in his programmes he examines issues such as drug abuse, alcoholism, homelessness and kidney disease. Mr Adam is about to offer training courses in video and radio, which he hopes his fellow clergy will attend. His bishop, the Right Rev Alan Chesters, who has become chairman of the BDTV management committee, believes many Christians fail to grasp that the traditional ways of the church do not make an impact. "In this decade of evangelism, many churches have yet to realise the power of video, of film professionally produced, to prepare men and women to hear the good news of Christ," he says.

Born in a council flat, the son of a coal miner, Mr Adam is far from traditional C of E material. He spent 25 years in showbusiness, beginning at 15 as a seaside accordionist. He graduated to working men's clubs and then became an impresario and theatrical agent, working with Mari Caine, Vera Lynn, Harry Secombe and Max Bygraves. He was an aggressive apostate, "I was a nightmare for theatre chaplains. My



Medium of the message: Lawrie Adam (right), his daughter Fiona and technician Mark Earnshaw at work

language was colourful." In forgetful moments, it still is.

One day an old friend asked him to do a warm-up act for Ken Dodd on the Isle of Man. The only spare room available on the island was in a Christian hotel, where he had a dramatic conversion experience. He started attending his local church in Blackpool, was baptised and confirmed. This put him on the path to ordination. "I did not want to be a priest, but I called."

Frustrated by silent retreats and determined to enliven his parish he made his first film, with a rented video camera. *Thine Be the Glory*,

interviews with local people about the parish, attracted more than 200 parishioners to his church hall. The film was also seen by workers from a charity for homeless people, who commissioned one of their own. Films about AIDS, alcoholism, drug abuse, grief and vocations to the priesthood have followed, raising hundreds of thousands of pounds.

"We give them a professional product at a price they can afford," Mr Adam says. "We are taking Jesus Christ into the market place."

"The diocese does not give us any handouts. It supports us by having faith in us."

Only two of his staff are paid, the other volunteers working for expenses only. Genesis Television, the commercial arm of BDTV, recently completed a film called *The Crown Jewel Experience*, which is under consideration for screening at Disney World, in Florida.

Mr Adam is not every vicar's cup of tea, but he has much to teach the church. Bishop Chesters says: "As we listen to the fuss about the music used at Dr Carey's enthronement as Archbishop of Canterbury, we realise just how great is the task we face to get good Christian people to realise that we are missionaries."

Many a word from our sponsor

Self-promotion has become part of the campaign to win Channel 3 licences

lenders millions of pounds. While publishers continue to complain that the BBC is unfairly using its television airtime to promote its own magazines, many ITV channels believe the ITV incumbents have an unfair advantage.

"It is not a level playing field," says Charles Levison, the managing director of CPTV, a consortium backed by David Frost, Virgin and Charterhouse bank, which is bidding against Thames. "It would have been nice if the

ITC [Independent Television Commission] had decided to allow us to have equal time."

Simon Albury, the director of strategy at M&A Broadcasting, which is bidding for TV's southern England franchise, says: "We would have to advertise on the network as much as many of the ITV companies do for free."

ringing in the head of someone planning a bid."

However, neither Mr Albury nor Mr Levison believes the ITV company advertisements will sway the issue. "Programme quality, financial backing and the size of the cash bid are the criteria," Mr Levison says. Mr Albury says: "The ITC will look at the substance, not the froth. Clearly the ads are aimed at getting the public to say to the ITC 'don't take away our station'. But the public are not fools; they can compare each

proposal on its merits." Clearly, many ITV companies, most notably the vulnerable TVS, disagree.

TVS has also spent a sizeable but undisclosed amount on 16-page glossy inserts in Sunday newspapers, mailouts to "relevant people" in its region, poster campaigns, promotions and even T-shirts. LWT is using posters and radio. Most of the rest are using newspapers. But with no publicity to influence the outcome of the auction, perhaps the ITV incumbents should send their videos, posters and tapes directly to George Russell, the ITC chairman.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

MEDIA WATCH

Revolving idea

BRUCE Gynell, the Australian chief executive of TV-am, hopes positive thinking will help him beat two formidable rivals in the struggle to win the national breakfast Channel 3 licence. Last month he instructed his 400 staff to touch new plaques every time they enter their Camden Town headquarters to help them "think positively". The plaques, which read "TV-am: The Winning Team for '93", are placed strategically on revolving doors so no employees can avoid them. Has it helped morale? "We're confident we're going to win," says Tracy Dyer, a TV-am spokeswoman.

TV-am is being challenged by Daybreak TV, a consortium backed by ITN, Carlton Communications, the Daily Telegraph group, M&A Broadcasting, Taylor Woodrow and the American NBC network. LWT, Scottish Television and Broadcast Communications, which is owned by the Guardian and Manchester Evening News, is also putting together a bid for the breakfast licence.

Black watch

THE American press has largely ignored the visit of the Rev Al Sharpton to Britain, apart from *The New York Post*, "Royal Pain!" the tabloid's front page screamed yesterday, with photographs of the *Daily Mirror*'s headline "The Rev Hate His Britain" and the *Sunday Express*'s "Racism Stir on Queen". The *Post*'s own headlines reported:

"Sharpton in London brands Queen and prime minister racist" and "British press blasts him as 'silly tourist' and 'windbag'." Page three was given over to British press reaction. The article also referred to criticism in *The Daily Telegraph* and the reproduction of an often-quoted description of Mr Sharpton as "the most odious man in America" in the *Sunday Independent*.

Hard words on easy listening

LORD Thomson of Monifeth, the former chairman of the old Independent Broadcasting Authority, is to criticise the Radio Authority's handling of the auction for the new "non-pop" national FM commercial radio licence with a question in the House of Lords. He is angry that the licence fees set by the authority, combined with the high costs of running the station and strict format rules, have discouraged all classical music bidders, making an easy listening station almost inevitable. He fears that no one, except Lord Hanson's Melody Radio, will have put in applications for the licence by the May 22 deadline.

Old favourites

FANS of *The Saint*, *Thunderbirds* and *The Prisoner* may soon be able to watch such British television nostalgia round the clock. ITC, the international programme distributor which owns the rights to about 4,000 of Lord Grade's old ITV programmes, is planning to start up a nostalgia cable channel in the UK. The company claims it has enough material to show



New life: two *Thunderbirds* programmes non-stop, seven days a week for three years, without any repeats.

Power behind ITV bid

EAST Midlands Electricity (EME) is understood to be behind a consortium bidding for the ITV Midlands franchise, currently held by Central Television. The consortium is reported to have sounded out local independent production houses with a view to establishing working arrangements should its bid be successful. An EME spokesman would say only that "we take an active interest in our customers and communities we serve and are interested in the forthcoming changes in the broadcasting industry".

M.W.

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GROUP CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

London OTE £22,000 neg Co Car Have you wide experience and a clear understanding of classified markets and their development? Then your brief will be to consolidate the existing sales effort by good management and training. Age 25 - 40. Reporting at Director level, you will receive guidance and support but must be confident in your skills and energetic enough to lead by example in developing, controlling and motivating the sales force. REF: 6035

DISPLAY SALES EXECUTIVE

Kent Base OTE £18,000 Co Car You will have 1 - 2 years experience of field sales in Business to Business Publishing. A good track record and the ability to take responsibility for 50% of budget, revenue and pagination. Dealing with major London and regional agencies you will be an enthusiastic solicitor. The company offers an excellent working environment, full product training and a visible career path. REF: 6040

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Lenta Business Space is a Equal Opportunity Employer.

ENO

GENERAL DIRECTOR

English National Opera invites applications for the post of General Director to succeed Peter Jonas when he leaves the Company for the Bavarian State Opera in July 1993.

The General Director is responsible to the Chairman and Board of ENO for the overall artistic, administrative and financial leadership of the Company. Candidates should apply in writing to the Chairman of ENO:

The Rt Hon the Earl of Harewood KBE

Chairman's Office
London Coliseum
St Martin's Lane
London WC2N 4ES
(marked 'In Confidence')

Salary will be negotiable and applications should be received by 31 May 1991.

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Opportunities knocked again

The psychologists and the equal opportunities officers, part two

THIS has not been a positive week for the equal opportunities industry. On Monday Professor Richard Lynn, of Ulster University's psychology department, produced a report claiming women were not as interested in money as men, and lacked the competitive drive to push them to the top. So, he concluded, the Equal Opportunities Commission should probably be abolished.

Today, a group of chartered occupational psychologists in Oxford will claim that being an equal opportunities officer can damage your health. A survey by Pearn Kandola Downs of equal opportunities personnel indicates that a woman who takes on the job (it is invariably a woman) is letting herself in for rather more than "whining", as Professor Lynn called it, from female workers. She is likely to suffer from migraine, skin rashes, stomach disorders, insomnia, be emotionally on the brink (which means bursting into tears a lot, according to the survey, although she usually waits until she gets home to do it), and she is lonely. Nobody wants to talk to her, or if they do they are hostile; she often does not know what she is supposed to be doing, and even when she does it is not given the money to do it. It is the equivalent of a career "hot potato".

"It is not unusual for an organisation employing 30,000 people to have one equal opportunities officer who has not got a hope in hell of making any significant difference to the company's policy," says Dr Rajvinder Kandola, one of the authors of the survey. "She is isolated within the organisation, trying to monitor how other people are recruiting, promoting or handling their staff. She often comes into conflict on a daily basis with colleagues who see her as a threat or a nuisance; it is a career move which leads nowhere and is hard to get out of."

"Firms are often quite cynical about why they are employing an EO person. It may be to do with an industrial tribunal case they have lost, or there is pressure from an American subsidiary."

In some quarters, however, being an equal opportunities executive is not traumatic at all. Diana Balsdon, the head of the National Westminster Bank's seven-strong equal opportunities unit in London, who answered the Pearn Kandola Downs questionnaire, is positively cheerful about her senior management post. Her organisation has been developing an EO policy over ten years, so she does not have to fight the flab of indifference. "We have a positive action programme when senior managers go on a two-day equal opportunities course to our staff college in the Oxfordshire countryside, and we are always trying to get the issue into the bloodstream of the organisation so every individual understands what it is about," Mrs Balsdon says. Unlike many equal opportunities officers who find the job ends in a career cul-de-sac, after two and a half years in the post Mrs Balsdon is moving on to what she describes as "a frontline role" in corporate finance.

But to whom can the beleaguered equal opportunities officer turn? Possibly the Equal Opportunity Commission's report group, the Equality Exchange. It has 400 member organisations and holds seminars, publishes a monthly bulletin and offers free advice. Pat Walker, the EOC's director of employment development, says he is not surprised to hear the results of the Pearn Kandola Downs survey.

Professor Lynn is also not surprised at the reported ill-health of EO officers, although he is less sympathetic. "The proliferation of these kinds of posts is what is unhealthy," he says. "We even have a professor of women's opportunities at this university who commands a secretary, which is more than I have."

HEATHER KIRBY

Home guard on holiday duty

STEPHEN MARKESON

How to leave home without high anxiety:

Geraldine Ranson reports on good housekeeping while you are on holiday

Returning home from holiday late one June night my husband went to unlock the house before carrying our sleeping sons into their beds. The door was ajar, the first evidence that something was amiss. We crept through the house and discovered an intruder had laid kitchen knives on each landing ready to attack anyone who disturbed him before he had finished removing our valuables. On another occasion we came back to find eerily open cupboards, and every drawer in the house upended on to the floor.

Leaving home for the pleasures of a holiday is often marred by either profound insecurity or stoical realism at the prospect of coming back to scenes of havoc. Burglary is just one hazard. Parking the car, the cat and the rubber plant is another. Cats home like pigeons on the first occasion their obliging hosts open a window. Birds have heart attacks and fall dead from their perches, while rubber plants have a habit of shedding their leaves.

One solution is to pay a professional to home-sit, leaving precise written instructions on how the establishment should be run. Country Cousins, Homesitters or Universal Aunts will provide a responsible person, or couple, who are sometimes even prepared to look after cows, conservatories and fire-bellied toads, whose diet of live crickets has to be fetched from an address in south London. But it is advisable to book early if your menagerie is unusual, as not all sitters will have the nerve or agility to take it on.

A sitter for two weeks' holiday will cost about £250, which may seem worthwhile if boarding the pets out is spiralling towards £200. However, in these difficult times, many of us need to improvise.

Leaving an au pair to hold the fort nearly always generates problems, particularly with pets. One neighbour commented gloomily: "Conventional simply do not understand dogs." Tucked up with a packet of biscuits in front of the television, their Italian girl had failed to take the dalmatian out for ten days. The carpets were a write-off.

When the home-sitter is not a pet lover, a professional dog walker will prevent a bored, pent-up pooch from turning delinquent. Dog walkers operate in most cities, and an ad at the newspaper's will often find one. The Chelsea Pensioners, for example, will help out local



Your home (and pets) in their hands: Arthur and Jo Dicks, professional home-sitters, at one of the houses they are regularly asked to look after

Londoners. Dogs are known to deter thieves, but they cannot be left for more than a few hours unattended. By definition, therefore, they are rarely at home when they are most needed. The actor Victor Maddera has produced an endless loop tape of a barking dog (there is also an intermittent version). No need to turn it up high enough to disturb the neighbours, but place speakers near the front and back doors. This gives any snooper the impression that as he walks round the outside of the house the dog is following his steps.

Mr Maddera claims that a customer in Zimbabwe who was burgled every three weeks has not had an intrusion since he started using the Fido tape. It has also proved very successful in protecting boats moored in marinas.

A gadget will feed a cat left at home over the weekend, or reduce the number of visits a neighbour needs to make during a longer holiday. The battery-operated De Luxe Pet Mate (in the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals mail-order catalogue) opens the lids of

two feeding trays separately, up to 48 hours after the timers are set.

Inviting friends to move in usually works well, but choose your guests with care. A colleague who left her house in the hands of a seemingly quiet bachelor returned to find a note saying that he had removed the sheets to launder them. She never saw him, or the sheets, again. Returning to find a bottle of your best wine uncorked but hardly touched is particularly irritating. "Why couldn't the idiot at least have finished it?" you fume.

Country friends with teenage children often welcome an invitation to home-sit in London, but sometimes the suggestion meets with the reply: "We'd far rather come when you're there." I have found myself with five guests camping in the sitting-room, and still no home-sitter for our holiday.

There are ways of keeping thieves at bay without recourse to elaborate burglar alarms. A time switch will turn lights on and off and, if an adaptor is added, the radio or

television too. A message recorded by a strange voice on the answerphone announcing that a guest is staying in the house while the family is on holiday will fool everyone except close friends. A pressure mat costs only a few pounds and, connected to a shrill electric bell, would deter all but the most sophisticated burglar.

In summer gardeners become slaves to their plot, and the owner of a conservatory leaves it untended for more than a day at his peril. While there is, to my knowledge, no machine which will dead-head roses or pick the runner beans, the Trinkle self-watering system works for garden window boxes and green-houses.

You have cancelled the milk and the newspapers and made sure that the letter box will take the volume of mail likely to arrive during the holiday. Is there anything else? Read through the small print on insurance policies, particularly for holidays of more than 30 days, or if the house is only partially furnished. You may need special cover.

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CARETAKERS

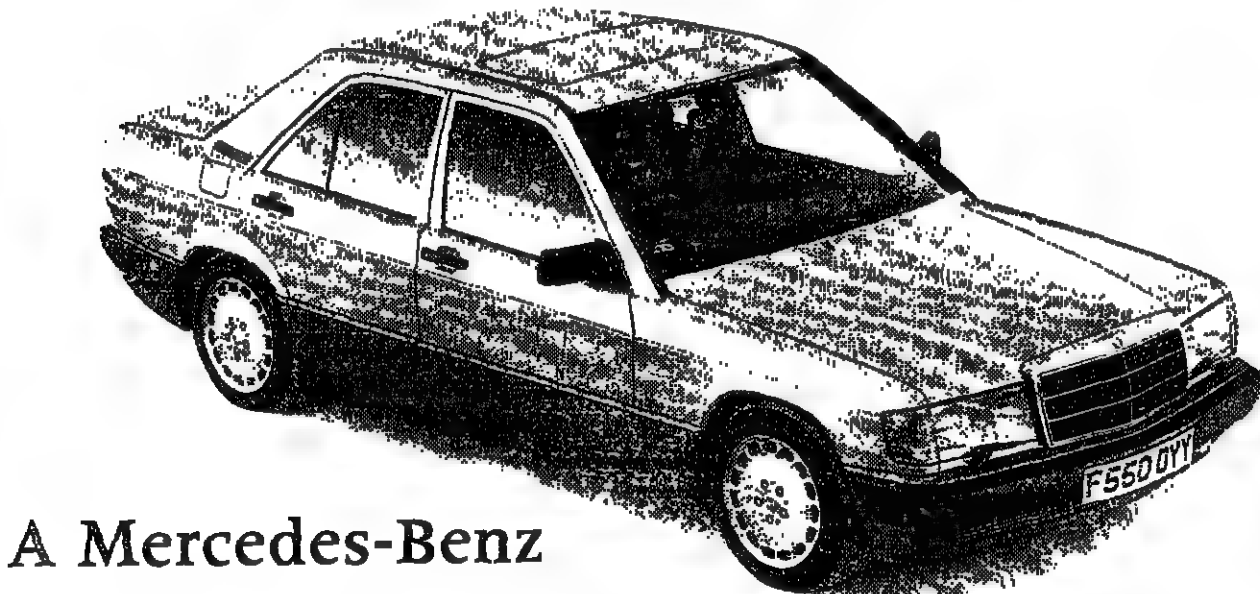
● Home-sitters (all charge for travel to and from the job, and expect to be left basic food and all petfood).

● Country Cousins, 10a Market Square, Hove, West Sussex RH12 1EU (0403 210415). Always sends couples to home-sit and charges £105 a week (£30 of which is the agency fee). Price includes all domestic pets except reptiles.

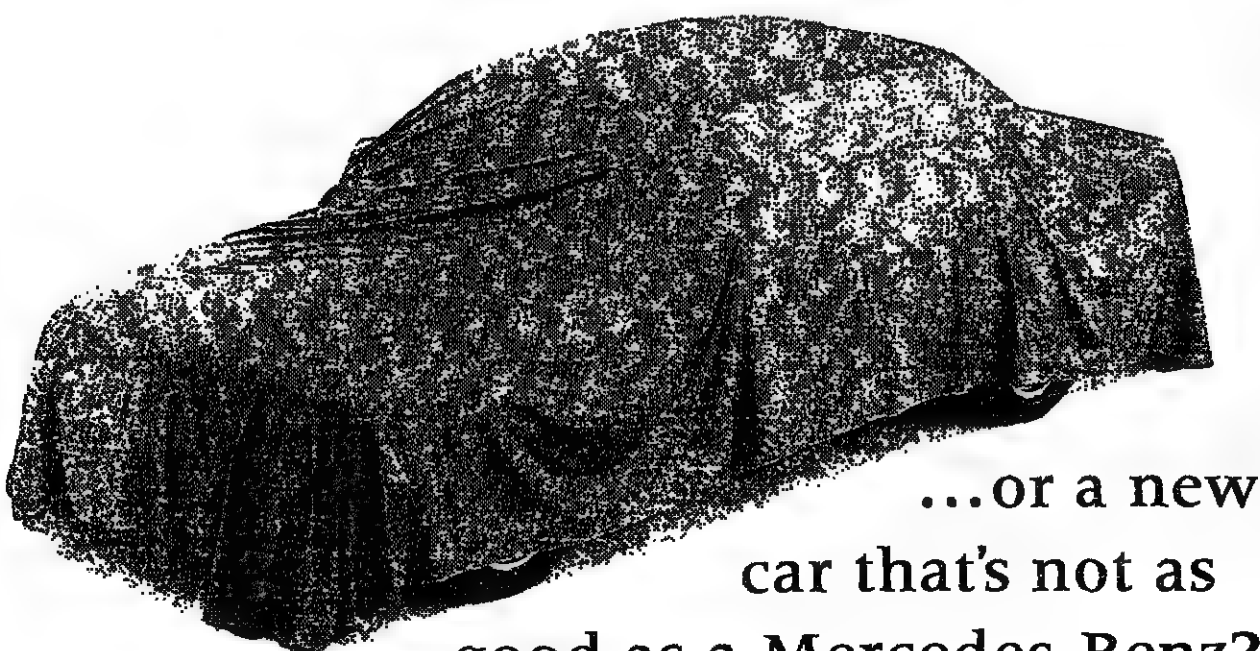
● Homesitters Ltd, Buckland Wharf, Buckland, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5LQ (0298 630730). Charges £14.40 (plus VAT) per day, plus 80p per cat and £1.80-£2 per dog per day. Charges for other pets on request.

● Universal Aunts Ltd, PO Box 304, London SW1 0NN (071-738 8837). Charges £24 per week for a home-sitter, plus an introduction fee of £55 plus VAT. No extra charge for pets.

● Chelsea Pensioners: telephone the Royal Hospital (071-730 0161 ext. 244) and ask the duty sergeant-major for further information.



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Catholic taste in sex and saints

Every Catholic girl, flicking through her missal in the chapel half-light, comes at some point to the depressing conclusion that sanctity and sex will never mix. Even if she marries, in the procession of female saints, the description "Holy Virgin" is outranked only by the even more desirable tag "Virgin and Martyr". Women are applauded not only for heroically resisting rape, like Marie Goretti, but for vehemently preferring death to marriage.

Here is St Agnes, thrown into a brothel but displaying "such meekness and purity" that the customers would not touch her. Here is St Agatha, rejoicing when her breasts are cut off, and - our final despair as we shaved our legs in the convent school dormitories - the apocryphal beauty who prayed to God that she might grow a beard to preserve her virginity. Her prayer was answered, but our own less heroic hopes for a husband and children seemed, at the time, less likely to meet with divine approval. Bodies were bad news. As St Agnes said to the executioner: "Do not delay. This body draws from some kind of admiration that I hate. Let it perish."

There are, of course, a few wives and mothers among the female saints. But their stories almost inevitably conclude with widowhood, whereupon they heave a sigh of relief and found an order of nuns. St Audrey actually married twice but, as the hagiographer has it, "was released from these unwelcome ties" when her first husband died early and the second was persuaded to live

celibate. Nor are male saints much help in reconciling married love with holiness. St Alexis left his bride at the altar to wander as a religious beggar for 17 years, and I can still remember the surge of irritation I felt, at 13, in the cell of St Nicholas of Flue in Switzerland. He left his wife to look after their ten children while he lived as a hermit, dispensing wise counsel. No men saints seem to favour the Norman Fowler option of spending more time with their families: always the reverse.



One might dismiss this dogged prejudice against married saints as a bit of endearing medievalism. But Kenneth Woodward's new and painstaking research into canonisation in *Making Saints* (published this Thursday by Canto, £18) startlingly points out that the old spirit is not dead. Priests tell the laity that a faithful family life can be as holy as any nun's, but the

Vatican's instinct is otherwise. In 1987, "the year of the laity", the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome considered 15 candidates and chose three. Two were girls who died resisting rape, one a chaste young man.

The next canonisation involved a group of 17th century martyrs, mainly Dominicans: one was married with children, but like the hermit of Flue he had left them to pursue holiness elsewhere. The next was the Blessed Giuseppe Mozzani: the model of a lay saint, an altruistic doctor. But he had (did you guess?) also taken a vow of celibacy at 17.

"It would be difficult", Mr Woodward says sadly, "to conclude from those the church raises to the altar that marriage is a life fit for a saint." He would like to see a married couple canonised, but the only case in sight is that of

the parents of St Therese of Lisieux. Even they lived celibate for the first year of marriage before being persuaded to produce nine children to God's glory. "There is no hint in their lives of mutual pleasure or passion, no sense that apart from producing children, being two-in-one-flesh was something they understood as a source of grace or even happiness," Mr Woodward says.

His concern is understandable because, as a cultural code, saints still matter. The Catholic church is the only one to make them, yet every time it does so a Protestant and atheist western world looks on with exasperated sidelong envy. The word holds too much magic to be lightly dismissed: St Francis and St George, St Nicholas and St Joan are too deep in our consciousness for new saints to be shrugged off easily. The story of one such, Father Maximilian Kolbe, who gave his life for another at Auschwitz, touched a chord in many a non-Catholic heart; and if Cardinal Newman is canonised England will be irresistibly drawn into the pride of it. Saints exist for all of us as an affirmation of the value of unmanly virtue. They matter, as Mr Woodward says, "to anyone who seriously asks, 'What does it mean to be fully human?' Holiness implies wholeness."

Except that one obvious kind of human wholeness is still, bafflingly, a major embarrassment.

LIBBY PURVES

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Putting safety first

FEW people think of insuring their children against accidental injury, yet the insurance company Cigna wants to prove this is short-sighted. If a child is permanently injured, parents may have to bear the expense of special tuition or rehabilitation programmes and modifications to their homes - while also having to give up work, the company says. Cigna has just launched a "Firstcover" children's injury insurance

policy, which provides cover anywhere in the world, even for participation in potentially dangerous sports. There are two levels of plans, one offering a payment of £25 for each day up to a year a child spends in hospital as the result of any accident, plus a maximum lump sum payment of £100,000 for a monthly premium of £3 per month or £5 to cover all the children in a family. The second level (£4.50 or £7) provides £50 a day hospital

& BRIEFLY

money and has a £200,000 maximum lump sum payment per child. Phone Firstcover on freephone 0800 444233 for details.

Stitch in time

SO POPULAR have Liberty's sewing schools been in the past that the store will be running a special workshop for *Times* readers on Wednesday, May 29. The "shirt for all seasons" work-

shop will be a full-day event, from 10.30am to 4.30pm, demonstrating how to use the same oversized shirt pattern to create dramatically different effects - in cotton, silk and viscose, using applique, quilting and needlepoint techniques for decoration. The workshop costs £30 per person and includes a light lunch and beverages during the day, and a discount voucher for Liberty fabrics bought on the day. Tickets and details from the Liberty Sewing School, Liberty, Regent Street, London W1R 6AH (071-734 1234 ext.2310).

VICTORIA MCKEE

صلى الله عليه وسلم

CINEMA

Character-building wait for stardom

In the history of the Academy Awards, few victories have been as astonishing as that of Kathy Bates, the relatively unknown 42-year-old who was this year's Best Actress for her performance in Rob Reiner's film *Misery* (opening here on May 10). The competition ranged from Oscar veterans such as Meryl Streep and Joanne Woodward to Hollywood's beautiful young star Julia Roberts. But Bates impressed voters with something American theatre-goers have known for years: that she has few equals if dramatic integrity is ranked above glamour, and truthfulness above hype.

"All of us practise our Academy Award speech in the shower at some point or other, but it seemed like something that would never happen to me," says Bates, reflecting on her sudden fame from a river-view suite at the Savoy this week, on her first trip to London. "My whole life has changed in the last year because Rob Reiner had the opportunity to take a chance on somebody. If he had needed permission from studio people, he wouldn't have been able to use me. I remember asking him, 'who else has to decide this?' And he said, 'nobody; it's my company'."

Bates's performance in *Misery* elevates a genre—the horror film—that rarely gets mentioned at Oscar time. As Annie Wilkes, the psychopathic nurse who takes an injured romantic novelist (played by James Caan) into her remote countryside home, she conveys the misplaced ecstasy and passion of an obsessive fan whose life has been mostly lovelessness and pain.

Her achievement lay in humanising a role which, in the original Stephen King novel, is an outright monster. "Even before working on Annie, I have always been interested in the contrapuntal things in characters: what are the opposites? When you find those opposites, you begin to get the shape of a round human being. For Annie the prevailing mood is: 'This

Kathy Bates, Oscar-winning stage actress, talks to Matt Wolf



Fan meets idol: Kathy Bates with James Caan in Rob Reiner's film, *Misery*

is a miracle; the person I'm most in love with has been given to me; he's here for me to take care of; I can help him.' We look at her and think, 'how pathetic'. But from her point of view this is the most incredible thing that has ever happened."

Bates's success in *Misery* is especially gratifying, given Hollywood's tendency to reject performers who do not fit preconceived standards of glamour. "That's always been part of it," she says, defining the shape of a career that began with a drama degree from Southern Methodist University in

Dallas. "From when I was very young, I was more maternally looking. I never played ingrate roles. The inference always was that I would come into my own. That was frustrating, but I know I've got something to give, so I just stuck with it."

"Within this business, actors are continually pigeon-holed, even though the uniqueness and individuality of the person are what they bring to the work. In the theatre, you're less readily cast to type."

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, the youngest of three sisters, Bates moved to New York in 1970 to try her luck at the theatre. She went, she says, armed only with a \$500 gift from her father and her own "sheer bullheadedness". The proverbial fledgling actor's life followed: waitressing mixed with off-off-Broadway showcases as well as, in Bates' case, lengthy stints in children's theatre.

Jack Heifner's 1975 *Vanities* provided her first sustained off-Broadway run, and before long Bates was joining Cher and Karen Black on Broadway in *Coma Back to the Fire and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*, a performance she then repeated on film. Her two best New York stage roles to date have nevertheless been denied her on screen: the suicidal daughter in *night, Mother*, played in the movie by Sissy Spacek, and the working-class waitress in *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, currently being filmed with Michelle Pfeiffer.

She finds the latter choice particularly dismaying, since it was confirmed just as Bates was achieving her highest profile so far with the American releases of both *Misery* and *White Palace*, in which she has one vivid scene as James Spader's tough-talking boss. "I wish Michelle luck, but it boggles the mind," Bates says, of a part which author Terrence McNally



Kathy Bates: "In this business, actors are pigeon-holed; in the theatre you're less readily cast to type."

wrote for her. "I thought it was wonderful to see a love story about people over 40, ordinary people, who were trying to connect. We haven't seen it before, and I don't think we are going to get to see it with this movie." She places the blame on the system, not Pfeiffer. "I imagine she's a grief because she's so gorgeous; she doesn't get a chance to play roles that are really meaty. If I were her, I would have gone after this, too."

Bates, however, has been too

busy to worry greatly. She has two films set for release later this year: Hector Babenco's *At Play in the Field of the Lord*, based on Peter Matthiessen's novel, in which she plays the missionary wife of Aidan Quinn, newly arrived in Brazil; and the film of Athol Fugard's play, *The Road to Mecca*, returning to a role she has played off-Broadway: the South African artist played on stage and screen by Yvonne Bryceland. Two films are yet to be shot: *Prelude to a Kiss*, with Alec

Baldwin, from the current Broadway play; and *Fried Green Tomatoes (At the Whistle Stop Café)*, with the 1990 best actress Oscar winner, Jessica Tandy.

Now gathering the clout to forge the career she wants, her goal on screen is to simulate an often convention-bound industry. "I wish there was more imagination about women's roles. I see so many women in society who hold positions of power and responsibility. I don't see them on screen."

BRIEFING

Off the Wall?

WHERE is the Berlin Wall? Thirty chunks, at least, have just been re-created in London. Yesterday Tim Renton, the arts minister, opened "Artists for Liberty", which displays the magnificent 30, newly sculpted (often satirically) by distinguished artists, until May 17 in the Henry Moore Gallery at the Royal College of Art. The exhibition, travelling to 14 countries, is organised by the Fondation Pascal Jeandet, a Paris-based charity for famine relief. Jeandet, a French millionaire, has undertaken to donate at least £400,000 to various bodies when the exhibition closes.

Offscreen

THEATRE management seems besotted with old films. Following Leslie Grantham's assumption of the Bogart raincoat for *Rick's Bar Casablanca*, and tonight's stage premiere of *My Beautiful Laundrette* in Cardiff, comes news of a staging of *The Manchurian Candidate* in July at the Lyric, Hammersmith. Clive Carter, Gerard Murphy and Sila Phillips inherit roles played on screen by Laurence Harvey, Frank Sinatra and Angela Lansbury.

Last chance...

THE Norwegian heart-throbs A-ha have been doggedly criss-crossing Europe for months in an attempt to refute their "yesterday's men" image, and establish credentials as a hard-working rock 'n' roll band. They end their British tour tomorrow at Hammer-smith Odeon, London W6 (081-748 4081).

EXHIBITION: GREENWICH

Food for thought here, and no chicken bones

The image of the "Merry Monarch" is transformed by a 500th anniversary show, writes John Russell Taylor

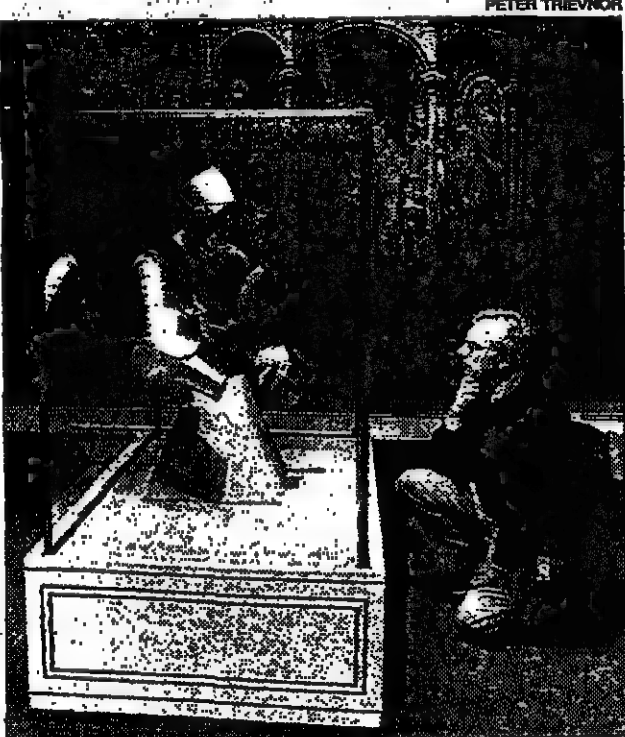
Henry VIII has the same kind of aura in the popular imagination as Richard III. Not that Henry is conceived of as a monster: far from it. But just as the true nature of Richard III is of little interest once the traditional Shakespearean brain-washing has taken place, so the rollicking, coarse buffoon of *The Private Life of Henry VIII* has been so imprinted on the national consciousness, through the authority of Charles Laughton, that it is seems pointless trying to salvage his reputation as a scholar, poet, musician and flower of Renaissance culture.

Or it did seem pointless until the superb Henry VIII at Greenwich exhibition, which opens at the National Maritime Museum today. The show's creator, Dr David Starkey, accepts that most people are going to come along because they vaguely remember Charles Laughton throwing a chicken bone over his shoulder as he declares "Refinement's a thing of the past", or try to recall which actress played which wife in the television series. The show is designed to present them with such a radically different image as to sweep them into another world.

This is the world of Henry as a European monarch, the most expansive and possibly most discriminating of all the royal British art collectors, the Renaissance prince on a scale of lavishness nobody would ever imagine from Korda's costume epic. It is, therefore, the world of the most distinguished artist who served him, Hans Holbein.

The location is fortuitous in one sense, almost inevitable in another. Greenwich turns out to have been the most important place in Henry's life. He was born there, christened there, married there twice, fathered two daughters there, and lived in the old palace there much longer than at Hampton Court.

The present palace long postdates the palace that Henry knew, a painted image of which is the first thing the visitor encounters on entering the exhibition. But everything possible has been done to re-



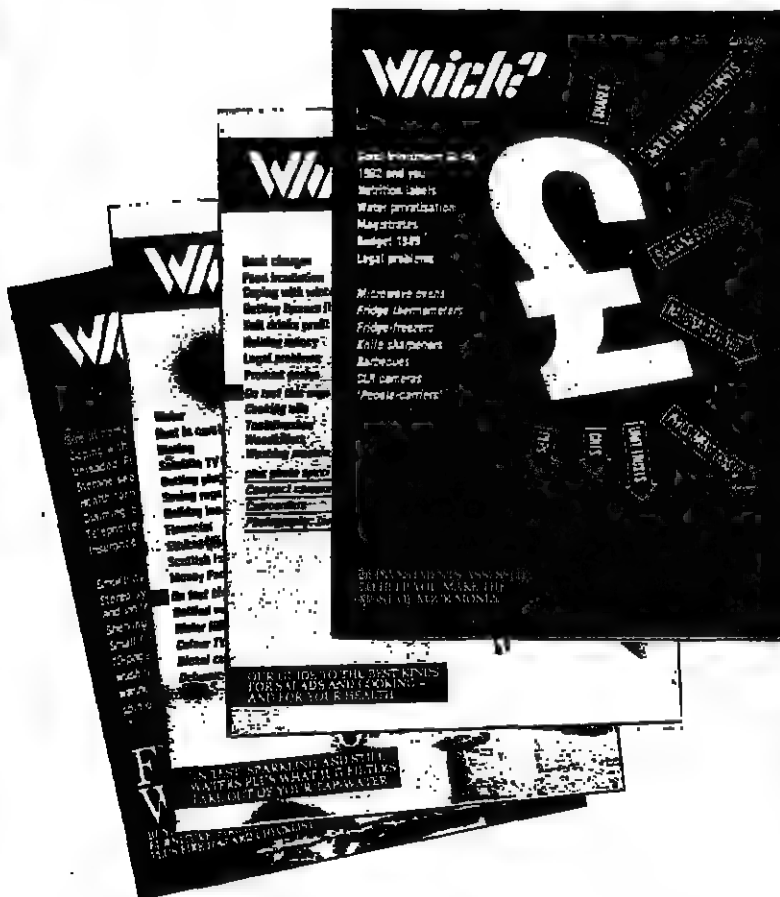
Kneaded: Dr David Starkey with Henry VIII's armour

create it. The central thread of the exhibition is life at Henry's court; visiting the show is like progressing through the old palace to the royal presence. Each room is simply and stylishly framed in photographic outline blow-ups of a typical Gothic interior, a ceremonial tent, a tilyard-cum-banqueting chamber, a musicians' gallery, or the king's own bedroom. Wherever possible, the details are taken from works by Holbein, so Holbein is often framed in Holbein.

The show's most effective tactic is its irresistible and immediate absorption of the visitor into the milieu it evokes. A piece of armour speeds the gaze to the original drawing by Holbein for a jewelled ornament, and right next door is the actual piece. The portraits, many splendid in themselves, take on added vividness from being exhibited on transparent stands, away from the wall, and at eye level, so that visitors almost seem to be walking among them.

All this is captivating to the layman. For the more scholarly, Dr Starkey has surprises in store, notably a miniature he has identified as Anne Boleyn, perhaps the only surviving portrayal from life. The incredible richness of the treatise signed at monarchical encounters, not seen in this country since they were carried off across the Channel and buried in the Archives Nationales nearly five centuries ago.

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Which?

A welcoming den for the literary lion pack

In Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's story "The Adventure of the Illustrious Client", there is a nice moment when Dr. Watson's routine offer of his services is accepted by Sherlock Holmes in a novel way. Instead of asking whether Watson's old army revolver is ready to hand, Holmes demands that his faithful helpmeet spend the next 24 hours in "an intensive study of Chinese pottery". Watson is stumped. "I walked down Baker Street revolving in my head how on earth I was to carry out so strange an order. Finally I drove to the London Library in St James's Square, put the matter to my friend Lomax, the sub-librarian, and departed to my rooms with a goodly volume under my arm."

The London Library has a great tradition of solving such urgent Chinese-pottery problems. The affection it inspires in its members (currently numbering 7,000) is sometimes attributed to the

slightly shabby splendour of its reading-room, or the dubious satisfaction of being able to brush against A.N. Wilson on the stairs. But more simply, its members love it because it gives us precisely what we want: books.

Other libraries tend to make you feel guilty about your greed for books, and treat their volumes as though they were favourite toys you are begging to be allowed to play with. The librarians disdainfully hold the book just beyond reach, and look at you through narrowed eyes, finally conceding that all right, you can hold it, but you cannot take it home.

That is why Thomas Carlyle founded the London Library in the first place: in 1841 his patience with the procedures of the British Museum Reading Room finally gave out. And it is why countless literary folk in the intervening 150 years have cried Hallelujah, Bless his Name.

At the London Library, you can

The London Library this week celebrates its 150th birthday.

Lynne Truss, a faithful member, catalogues its qualities



Library that lends a dash of intellectual class. Members include (from left) V.S. Pritchett, Lady Longford, Kingsley Amis, Fiona Pitt-Kathley, Michael Holroyd and A.S. Byatt

wander freely around the stacks (nearly all books are shelved for what librarians call "open access", lit by specially under-powered overhead bulbs that re-create the effect of gaslight), assemble a pile of volumes, and take them home. The only frisson of anxiety in this process comes when giving one's name at the issue desk, because

there is always a faint chance it will be recognised by an author browsing in the nearby indexes, to whom one once gave a blistering nasty review.

The point about the London Library is that each member regards this vast historic resource as his or her own personal collection, conveniently situated

in the West End, and not cluttering up the back bedroom at home. That one can usually find the right book patiently waiting on the right shelf reinforces this warm feeling of proprietorship and security. But the real mystery of the place was summed up by T.S. Eliot in his 1952 presidential address, when he said, "I do not believe there is

another library of this size which contains so many of the books which I might want, and so few of the books which I cannot imagine anyone wanting." I believe I know how he felt.

At the beginning of her novel *Possession*, A.S. Byatt rehearses some of the categories to be found (ordered alphabetically) in the Science and Miscellaneous section: Dancing, Deaf and Dumb, Death, Dentistry, Devil and Dematology, Distribution, Dogs, Domestic Servants, Dreams. With the possible exception of Distribution, there is nothing there that one could not spend a lifetime happily reading about.

As with any beloved institution, the London Library has its blemishes, but these only serve to draw the members together in a common bond. On learning that an acquaintance is a fellow-member, it is customary to shriek, "The floors! Ha Ha! The catalogue!" Personally, I have never

mind too much about the antiquated catalogue (which, in any case, is currently being computerised). Since all the books are waiting on the shelves, I waste no time whatever in seeking them out in their murky hiding-places, like a pig after truffles (even making appropriate snuffling sounds).

The floors are another matter. Some of them are not floors at all, being composed of sinister metal grilles. As one walks along them, they clang — and shift, slightly — and offer an almost unimpeded view of the floor below. For anyone subject to vertigo, then, the trip to the Humour section becomes a scene from a Hitchcock movie. Inch by inch, one edges across the abyss with one's eyes closed, trembling fingers outstretched, all the while praying that nobody is staring up at one from English Drama (History of), situated beneath. Luckily, of course, the volumes are so "goodly" that it is worth it.

Martin Jacques

For redbrick or Oxbridge, the way is high-tech

In the Sixties, the universities were a symbol of dynamism and change. They were integral to Harold Wilson's rhetoric about the white-hot technological revolution. The Robbins expansion of the universities seemed a natural course to pursue. How times change. In the similarly dynamic Eighties, universities found themselves besieged. The leading-edge of change was now symbolised by entrepreneurs, the City, the media, information technology, but definitely not the universities, but definitely not the universities.

Why? One reason is that they were starved of funds. For years there was little recruitment. University departments were like stagnant ponds. And academics did miserably in the pay stakes. In the Eighties, their real salaries increased by a mere 5 per cent, by far the lowest in the public sector. Not surprisingly, they became demoralised. The underfunding of education during the Thatcher era has left a baneful legacy.

But the reasons why universities have been sidelined are more profound. They relate to the tangible shift during the 1980s towards the knowledge society and the revolution in information and communications technology. Industries in the vanguard of the change, including software, the media and consultancy, began to nibble away at the functions of the university. Journalists provided new competition for academics; City economists began to edge out academics in the forecasting business, and television set new standards in the art of communication.

The knowledge industries are characterised by new cultures, often young, dynamic, flexible and highly innovative. By contrast, the universities have been slow to respond to the new environment. They have proved poor innovators, weighed down by traditions and habits which they have found hard to shake off. Worse, they are cut off from a rapidly changing society and from a broader knowledge community that should stimulate them. Too much academic writing is designed solely for other academics, and is laden with specialised

jargon. The majority of academics are academics for life, with little opportunity or encouragement to find stimulus, even temporarily, in other pastures.

The failure of the universities to adapt is the central argument in Sir Douglas Hague's new pamphlet from the Institute of Economic Affairs, *Beyond Universities: A New Republic of the Intellect*. Hague's analysis coincides with much of my own experience as an academic in the Seventies and then as a kind of intellectual freelance in the Eighties.

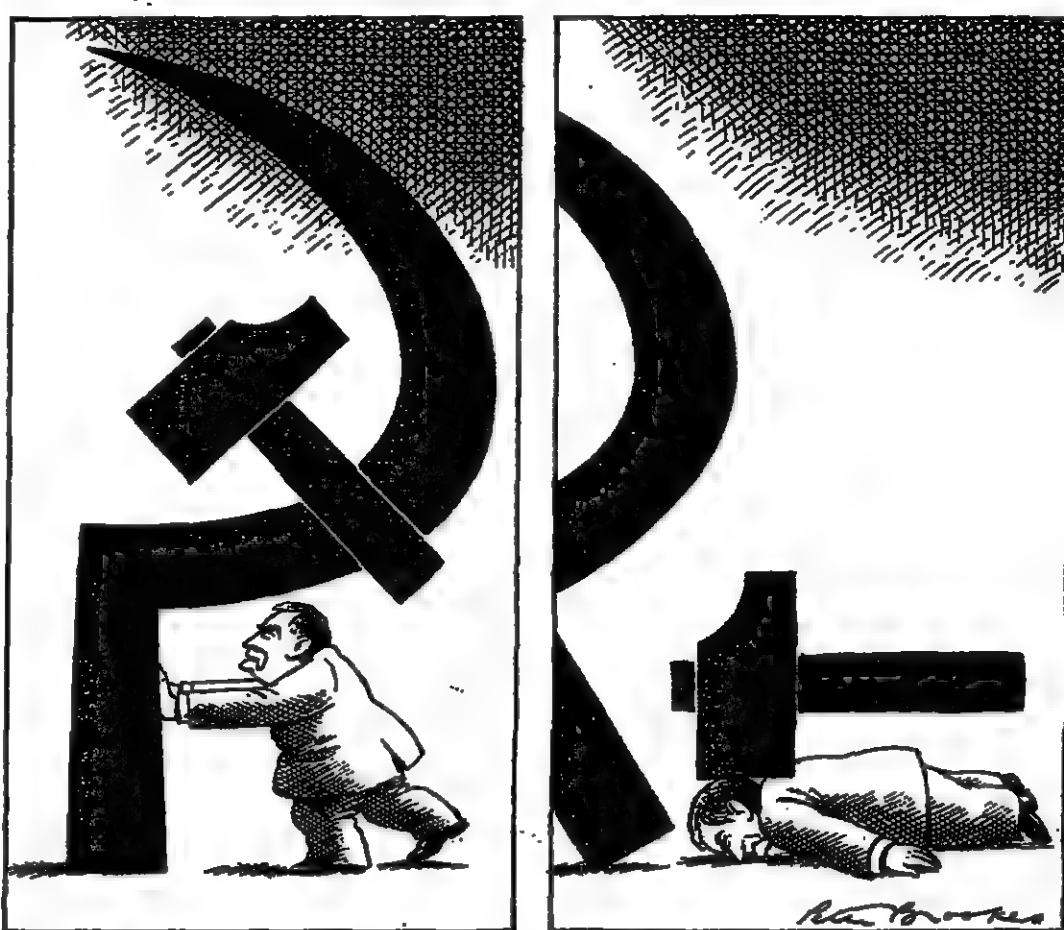
None of this means that universities are in permanent decline or will in future be of marginal importance. On the contrary, the knowledge revolution suggests that universities could become even more significant, but only if they change. So what might be an appropriate model for the university of 2000? It would need to be far more open to outside influences, constantly interacting with business, the media, consultancy firms and government.

Such permeability, however, should have limits — something that Hague does not acknowledge. For part of the unique value of research in universities, which for the most part remains unchallenged by the knowledge industries, is the longer-term view, the stake in disinterested research that is not driven by the market. A model of future universities should include a wider range of teaching methods, with greater use of television, video and, in due course, video-conferencing. Modern communications open up the prospect of higher education for much larger numbers at much lower cost. The best model here is the Open University.

The present insistence that every university should engage in both teaching and research, and that every academic should do likewise, is outmoded. The time has come for institutions and academics to specialise in what they are best at. We should start by abolishing the distinction between universities and polytechnics. The university system of the future should present a far more diverse picture.

Nothing to lose but your job

As the free market takes its toll, East Europeans will think wistfully of the May Days of old. Roger Boyes reports



democracies. Polish workers now have to pay to send their children to kindergarten — about £10 a child per month, or a tenth of the average wage — and many are going to expensive private doctors because of the shortage of X-ray and other equipment in under-financed hospitals.

Unemployment, which was always hidden in the days of communist-controlled economies, is rising high. It is highest in Poland, where 1.3 million people — 7 per cent — are out of work. By next winter the figure could rise to 2 million. In Warsaw, almost all big factories are on short-time working; women especially are being laid off by the thousand.

Workers in the countries where reform is most advanced (Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia) can moonlight or still imported ba-

nanas on the street, but in those that are still communist, such as the Yugoslav republic of Serbia, they are virtually prisoners of their factories, often having to wait months to be paid. Belgrade factories recently ensured high attendance at a rally in support of the Serbian communist leader, Slobodan Milosevic, by promising 1,000 dinars of back pay. The workers turned up, but there was not much cheering.

Most embittered are the miners and steelworkers who were once the heroes of the communist propaganda machine. Miners in Romania, the Silesia region of Poland and the Ukraine used to receive vouchers entitling them to jump the year-long waiting lists to buy a car; they were so well paid that special shops were set up to cater for them. In Poland, miners' pay is now the industrial average.

The communists erected a hierarchy of proletarian privilege, and it has crumbled.

The miners sense that only some form of socialism can save their status and ultimately their jobs, which is why President Ion Iliescu of Romania was able to mobilise miner vigilantes against student demonstrators. Workers and students are no longer on the same side. In the grimy terraces of Katowice and other Polish industrial centres, the great fear of 1990 was that the German capitalists would buy back Silesia, which they lost in the post-war settlements. In 1991, the fear is that the Germans will not come.

Pollution, the hopelessly antiquated steelworks and the difficult and unsafe pits have scared away all but the most intrepid Western

investors. None of the new democratic leaders — not even Václav Havel, Czechoslovakia's moral beacon, nor the worker-tribune Lech Walesa — has had the guts to tell these workers they have no future. Nor will technology parks or silicone valleys be established in the industrial hub of eastern Europe to provide them with alternative work.

Like the 1848 revolutions, most of those of 1989 were expressions of middle-class discontent and in some ways were against the workers. They were a protest against a system that forced bright children of doctors and lawyers to demonstrate their proletarian status by putting in a year or two on a building site to qualify for university.

Poland, where the democratic revolutions began, was the exception, for Solidarity did represent a workers' revolt, and a worker is now head of state. As a result, the sound of betrayal is greater in Poland than elsewhere. No amount of embourgeoisement will help. Handing out worker shares in privatised companies has not dulled the pain of redundancy. Like the other east European countries, Poland has no culture of unemployment: to lose one's job is to fall into an abyss.

So a great race is under way. The neo-liberals in government are pushing ahead with their conversion to a market economy as fast as they can, before worker resistance becomes too feverish. But the government and the president know that the consensus for free-market reform is rapidly disappearing. Solidarity is losing ground to left-wing trade unions and to outsiders such as the Polish-Canadian emigrant Stan Tyminski who is travelling around factories and mines setting up a political party.

The danger is that workers in key Polish industries will go on strike, as is happening in the Soviet Union. The government will be forced to relax its wage controls, and suddenly, rather than following the market track, the whole economy will go off the rails. And if that happens in Poland, the free-market lobbies in the other reforming countries of eastern Europe will collapse. The workers may not have much power left, but they still have the power to obstruct.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I have always had a soft spot for psychotropic signboards. Clarity is a laudable virtue. *Way Out or No Spitting* may do the job, but that is all they do. They do not tease us out of thought as doth, say *Heavy Plant Crossing*, which not only offers the possibility that, some chilly night, a suddenly sliding cloud will allow the moon to pick out a trifling shambling across the A41 in front of us, but also leaves us with limitlessly ponderable options about what do we do to stop that wretched carriageway and start hissing.

If it is a trifling. Might it not be a hazzchem? Well, sadly, no, not any longer. For a while after *Warning! Hazzchem!* signs began appearing in, as I recall, the mid-1970s, I carefully avoided asking anyone what it meant, because I wanted to believe I knew. It was like a golem, only bigger. With one terrible eye.

The Old Testament was probably full of them, if you knew where to look; they lay dormant until human misbehaviour reached a nadir unacceptable to the Almighty, and then they came out and ate people. The government would not release this to the press for fear of public panic, but it had obviously decided to nail a few signs up, to cover itself.

I remember seeing my first hazzchem sign: it was in EC4's Red Lion Court, next, coincidentally, to a sign I had enjoyed for some years. The older sign said *Smoke Extract From Basement*. Though in brass, what could this be but an

advertisement? In a world where pipe tobacco seemed always to have done as much as possible to efface their appeal by calling themselves things like Old Cut Plug and Heavy Dark Shag, wasn't Extract from Basement rather more inviting than most? If it wasn't an advertisement, of course, it was even more intriguing. Why were those who had put the sign up telling you about it, whatever it was? What did they want you to do?

I used, many a lunchtime, to walk down Fleet Street from Red Lion Court, cross Blackfriars Bridge, and stroll Bankside to Sir Christopher Wren's house; but only for the sign on the door next to it. This warned *Egg-Breaking — Slow Down!* I never knocked on the door, would I? The imagination was already inside.

Until, that is, you strolled on a bit, crossed the road, looked over the embankment wall, spotted the wooden board which said *No Mudlarking*, and invited the imagination to come outside again, where it was needed. And last Saturday's notice? Of a slightly different order, perhaps, but an order unquestionably, and an order no less fraught with question. I stood looking at it for some time. I also stood looking at me looking at it, because there was a reflective window next to it, though it wasn't half as reflective as I was. The window, and the signboard, belong to The Marlborough Arms, which stands on the corner of Hartley Street and Torrington Place, and was therefore a convenient spot for me to

meet my wife, especially as this was what we had arranged earlier, and anywhere else I now decided to turn up would clearly not be convenient at all. The signboard, however, said *Minimum Standard of Dress — Smart Casual*.

But how smart is smart? How casual casual? It was an elegant sign, hand-painted: it might well have gone up in an era when the door was not only barred to pennants but worn at an unacceptably jaunty angle, but when anyone who had managed to get inside had shown more than two inches of cuff when reaching out to the barman for his hock-and-seltzer had his glass immediately snatched back; but what did it prohibit in these less formal times?

According to the window next to it, the person staring at this sign was wearing old jeans and an old denim shirt, one elbow of which could be seen through the hole in his old pullover. What could be more casual? What could be less smart?

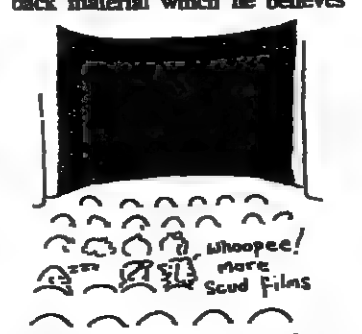
He leaned forward, peering through his own image for clues. He saw a smart casual woman looking at her watch and beginning to drum her fingers on the table. He did not want to embarrass her. So he crossed the road and telephoned The Marlborough Arms, and he enquired what the sign meant, and a very nice woman said: "It means we don't like people coming in here with bare feet."

So that was all right. Disappointing news for heavy plants and hazzchems, mind.

More film they would not show

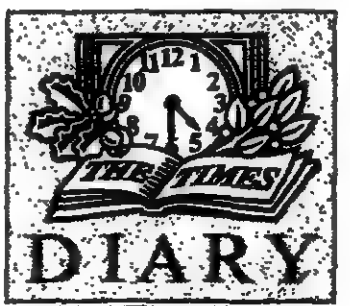
The British Film Institute has stepped into the debate about media coverage of the Gulf war by asking the Ministry of Defence to release its own previously unshown footage. Hundreds of hours of film, much of it taken by video cameras attached to RAF planes, are lying somewhere in the Whitehall vaults. For both political and preservation reasons, the BFI believes the film should be deposited in the archives of a nationally respected body — such as itself.

Wulf Stevenson, director of the institute, has had preliminary discussions with the MoD but fears that it will continue to hold back material which he believes



should be in the public domain. "We need a much more complete picture of the war," he says. "It is hard to tell from the material we have seen so far what was really going on. We saw a very sanitised picture that began to look like a video game. It was all quite pretty. We need to see the raw horror."

Stevenson has in mind, for example, cameras attached to aircraft carrying "smart bombs" that were not so smart and missed their target. "We need to see the near misses. There is also a lot of film taken by cameras next to



missile launchers. This would give a less coherent narrative than what we have seen to date but it would show the chaos of the actuality of battle."

Stevenson points out that much of the official film of the second world war has been lost, and claims that only an institution such as the BFI can offer the very latest video preservation facilities. The ministry, however, says decisions will be taken only as and when the material is declassified. Film of missiles at work — described as "targeting imagery" in MoD-speak — is almost all classified, and likely to remain so for some considerable time.

Bruges blues

Further evidence of the growing rift in the Tory party between the Thatcherites and supporters of John Major, the chief whip, Richard Ryder, has banned all ministers from addressing the Bruges Group, of which Mrs Thatcher is president. At least three have withdrawn from speaking engagements as a result — Michael Howard, the employment secretary, John Redwood, one of the most Thatcherite ministers of all, and Tristan Garel-Jones.

Ryder's edict follows disappointment among those close to Major that the group refused the resignation of Patrick Robertson, its secretary, after he said "the price for the overthrow of Mrs Thatcher

was paid for with the blood of thousands of innocent Iraqis". The group suffered a further setback yesterday when one of its main financial backers, Duncan Smith, chairman of Wallace Smith Trust, was held in police custody after his City bank suspended trading and the Bank of England began an investigation.

● Mrs Thatcher's rare visit to Covent Garden on Monday for a performance of *Carmen* was not entirely happy. During the interval Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, went to the royal box to ask how she was enjoying the evening. Her reply was distinctly unenthusiastic. Did Isaacs exact his revenge? When the smugglers arrived on stage at the start of act three they pointedly swung their muskets in her direction. The security men who still accompany the former prime minister almost had heart failure.

No privacy now

The son of Daphne du Maurier has angrily attacked her biographer, Martyn Shallcross, whose controversial book is published tomorrow. Christian Browning has sent the publishers a list of 40 alleged inaccuracies in *The Private World of Daphne du Maurier*, which suggests that his mother was a closet lesbian who was once a close friend of the novelist. The book has already been denounced by Margaret Forster, du Maurier's official biographer.

Shallcross claims, for example, that du Maurier went on long walks with Agatha Christie on London's Embankment while Christie helped her with the plot of her novel *Scapegoat*. Browning, one of du Maurier's literary executors, says the family can prove that the two never met.

Shallcross also claims to have known du Maurier for 20 years, but Browning disputes this. "She

thought he was a harmless enthusiastic fan who kept writing to her. Then he produces this book — full of inaccuracies, poorly written and badly researched. She would be sad that someone she tried to help would write this sort of cheap sensational stuff."

For the moment, Shallcross declines to answer. "I am aware of the complaints, and I will respond in due course privately," he says.

Style counsels

Potential prime ministers and their staff will surely be queuing up for a seminar run by the public relations industry on the subject of "PR for PMs" next month. Former Downing Street gurus Sir Tim Bell and Harvey Thomas, responsible for many of Mrs Thatcher's greatest public relations coups of the 1980s, are running the seminar under the auspices of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising.

The advice on offer, it is said, will cover everything from the value of remembering one's educational qualifications to the cut of off-the-peg C & A suits, but at least one PM-in-waiting will not be represented. Although the keys to power are being offered at the modest sum of £9 per head, a spokesman for Neil Kinnock's office said yesterday: "I don't think anyone from this office will be there. We're doing very nicely without going to lectures."

● After lunching at Jeffrey Archer's *Granchester home* on Sunday, John Major was relaxing in the sunshine on the nearby riverbank when a punt bearing four Cambridge undergraduates glided into view. The unexpected sight of the shirt-sleeved prime minister caused such excitement that the punt careered into the far bank. "That will teach you to peer to the left," Major shouted. "Why don't you steer over our way in future?"

مسكنات الاموال



JAM TOMORROW

The Chancellor has said repeatedly that an improvement in business confidence would be the first reliable harbinger of economic recovery. Yesterday, the first such sign finally appeared. The Confederation of British Industry's quarterly trends survey is generally agreed to be the most comprehensive and reliable indicator of business conditions and expectations in Britain.

The industrialists' own gloss on yesterday's release was gloomy. And indeed, the survey confirms that the recession has been deeper than either the business community or the Treasury expected. A large majority of companies still expects to cut jobs and investment over the next four months.

However, when asked about the future, the figures tell a happier tale. In January, 51 per cent more businessmen expected the economy to deteriorate than expected it to improve. In April, the majority expecting a deterioration is down to only 17 per cent.

As Norman Lamont has justifiably pointed out, government policymakers and business planners are less interested in what has already happened than in what the future holds. Employment and investment figures are poor guides to the future, since they are strongly influenced by past events. By contrast, the CBI's questions on general business optimism and expectations of future output have established impressive track records for forecasting turning-points in the business cycle over the last 30 years.

Sharp reductions in the degree of pessimism during past recessions have been invariably followed by economic recoveries, starting within three to nine months of the trough in business confidence. If past experience is repeated — a caveat which is more than usually significant in the aftermath of the Gulf War — gross national product will start growing again sometime between now and the fourth quarter of this year. The Chancellor's claim that a recovery

is now "around the corner" starts to look less like a Panglossian dream.

For economic history, therefore, the Chancellor could now rest his reputation on the prediction that economic recovery would start sometime in the second half of this year. The danger now is that the voices of excessive caution in the Treasury will persuade him to do this, and nothing more. Since a recovery is all but assured, they will argue, the safest option is to leave well alone. Policy changes that might disturb investors in the foreign exchanges and financial markets should be avoided. Spontaneous recovery is on its way. The Chancellor should simply wait to enjoy it.

In the end, proponents of this do-nothing approach are bound to be proved right. All recessions end sooner or later. Demand falls so far that it can fall no further. Postponed investment can be postponed no longer. Stocks get so low that they have to be rebuilt. This triggers the kind of turnaround in business and consumer confidence now being detected by the CBI. But the prediction that the recession will end eventually says nothing about the depth of the fall, the strength of the subsequent recovery or the amount of economic damage and human suffering caused in the intervening months.

For a government which faces re-election between now and June next year, and which has already presided over two of the three deepest recessions in postwar history, there should be little satisfaction in the prospect of a recovery of uncertain strength which may not even start until the winter, and which would not be statistically perceptible for months after that. The case for further cuts in interest rates — balanced by more aggressive anti-monopoly and labour market measures to act as a bulwark against inflation — remains as convincing as ever.

EPICENTRE OF STRIFE

Monday's earthquake in Georgia will, like the Armenian earthquake of 1988, have political consequences. Western aid after the Armenian earthquake was largely hived off by corrupt Soviet officials before it could reach the victims. Except in the troubled mountain region of South Ossetia, where Soviet troops are in control, the Georgians will distribute any disaster relief they receive from Moscow or the West themselves. The communist hold over Georgia has crumbled in the two years since the Soviet army massacred 20 Georgians in Tbilisi. Transcaucasia — Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan — is now as resistant to rule from Moscow as are the three Baltic states.

The politics of Transcaucasia have been transformed beyond recognition since Eduard Shevardnadze, later to become Mr Gorbachev's foreign minister, was made party leader of Georgia by Brezhnev in 1972. Mr Shevardnadze carried out his orders to suppress the Georgian language, but nationalism revived in 1988 after a dozen Georgian cultural monuments were demolished during the building of a railway.

Georgia's short-lived independence was crushed by the Red Army in 1921. This year May Day, which has come to symbolise 70 years of Soviet rule, will not be celebrated in Georgia. The change has come with extraordinary speed. Only three weeks have passed since Georgia declared its independence. That declaration followed a referendum in which President Zviad Gamsakhurdia received backing for his challenge to Soviet rule from 98 per cent of those who voted. No results were published from the autonomous regions within Georgia of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, neither of which has the shown the same enthusiasm for Georgian independence as the rest of the republic.

With some justification, Mr Gamsakhurdia accuses the Kremlin of exploiting Ossete discontent. But there seems little

doubt that many members of both minorities, which together make up 30 per cent of Georgia's population of 5.2 million, prefer to be ruled from distant Moscow rather than from nearby Tbilisi.

Violence between the Orthodox Christian Georgians and Turkic Muslims of Abkhazia erupted in 1989. Tension between the Georgian government and Ossete nationalists has also grown. Last December South Ossetia was deprived of its autonomous status by the Georgian parliament in Tbilisi. Since then, at least 70 people have died in ethnic clashes. A few units of Soviet troops were sent to the area, but after the Georgians defied the Supreme Soviet's demand for a state of emergency to be imposed in South Ossetia, President Gorbachev backed away from a confrontation. He does not wish to encourage Ossete separatism too far. The latter's goal is union with North Ossetia, across the Caucasian mountains, and eventual independence from the Soviet Union.

Georgia has a good chance of becoming a viable state. With their prosperous agriculture and vineyards, besides a balmy Black Sea seaboard, Georgians already enjoy high living standards compared to most Soviet citizens. But the treatment of minorities will clearly be the principal test of the independent republic's maturity. Without Abkhazia, Georgia would lack its major seaside resort of Sukhumi. The border of South Ossetia is only some 25 miles from Tbilisi.

Georgian independence has so far been a success. But the sacrifices Georgians have made do not mean that they have the right to impose their will on their minorities. The balkanisation of Transcaucasia will only succeed with an admixture of tolerance by all its peoples. President Gamsakhurdia is a scholar who has translated Oscar Wilde into Georgian. He should take to heart Wilde's famous quip: "A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it."

INTERESTED PARTIES

The oratory of Burke, Gladstone and Lloyd George echoed to a chamber stuffed with landowners, mineowners, industrialists and brewers. Few could afford membership of the House of Commons unless they enjoyed substantial assets. Today MPs earn £28,970, plus secretarial and travel allowances, which by the standards of successful middle class people is no fortune. Not surprisingly, two thirds of them top up their incomes, some as barristers or journalists, others with directorships and consultancies. The Commons select committee on members' interests is presently re-examining the rules that govern such activities.

Defenders of the practice argue that these contacts keep them in touch with the real world. Detractors insist that no shadow of conflicting interest must darken Parliament's deliberations and would, with Tony Benn, purge the temple of its money-changers. By way of compromise, since 1976 MPs have been expected to make their pecuniary interests public in a parliamentary register, and to declare these interests when addressing the house or its committees.

MPs inevitably represent special interests in their constituencies. If they further choose to represent other interests, that is permissible, provided that Parliament and the public know who is paying them. But the present rules suffer from two defects: they are vague and incomplete.

Members must register earnings and benefits from directorships, companies, sponsorships, sponsored overseas travel, gifts from foreign governments or interests, property and shareholdings. They need not, however, provide a detailed description of the companies they own or represent or say how much they are paid. An MP must

register a consultancy with a professional lobbying company, but need not list that company's roster of clients.

Ministers must shed all investments related to their portfolios. Yet the chairman and members of the select committees which scrutinise government departments are not obliged to divest themselves of financial interests pertaining to those departments. The chairman of the agriculture committee may be a consultant to British Sugar, for example. An MP sponsored by a union may chair the employment committee.

Parliament admits the need to clean up this act. In the wake of embarrassing instances of amnesia, the select committee has been asked to come up with tighter rules by the summer recess. Its recommendations last month on select committees, *inter alia* requiring chairmen to divest themselves of relevant financial interests, represent a useful interim step.

The committee should go further. MPs must be obliged to declare an interest when tabling parliamentary questions on behalf of a company they represent. And the growth industry in lucrative consultancies to professional Westminster lobbyists must be ended. In Canada, MPs have been debarred from such consultancies, and the House of Commons should follow suit.

For an MP to act as a director or consultant to ICI or other private companies is, just, acceptable, provided this does not impair his service to his constituents. For MPs to act as their agents and advocates in disguise brings Parliament into disrepute. Let there be money-changers and money-makers in the temple, but let them be unmistakably identified.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Fears for UN ability to protect Kurds

From Major-General H. M. Tillotson

Sir, Douglas Hurd is correct in principle to propose a United Nations civilian police presence in those areas of Iraq now being made safe for the Kurds (report, April 29). It would be a grave mistake, however, to foster any public impression that such a force could keep the peace between Iraqis and the Kurds, as might be inferred from today's report by your diplomatic correspondent, David Watts, short of a solid and enforceable agreement.

Civilian police were used extensively by the UN force in Cyprus, of which I was Chief of Staff from 1976 to 1978, to investigate inter-communal murders and other serious crimes while the Greek and Turkish populations were intermingled. Once these communities were almost entirely separated, in consequence of intervention by mainland Turkish armed forces in 1974, the usefulness and the numbers of UN civilian police sharply declined.

It is a popular misconception, all too readily embraced by diplomats and politicians alike, that a UN force can keep warring factions apart on the strength of some blue berets and a Security Council resolution. Facts argue otherwise, except where the protagonists have formally agreed to a temporary peace formula and also to the presence of UN soldiers or police to oversee such agreement.

The best example of this arrangement is the force still operating on the Golan Heights, where the UN Disengagement Observer Force (Undof) has held a buffer zone between Israeli and Syrian forces since the end of the Yom Kippur war of 1973. A comparable arrangement is appropriate for control of the Iraqi-Kuwait border today; and it cannot be coincidence that the Commander of the UN force there, General Ginter Greindl, is a one-time UN Chief of Staff on the Golan.

Accident causes

From the Deputy Chairman of the Association of Insurance and Risk Managers in Industry and Commerce

Sir, Your leading article ("Taking a running jump", April 25) invites us to "face up to the fundamental cause of all accidents... the behaviour of human beings, and their failure to comply with the expectations of the experts".

Those of us professionally and humanely concerned with risk reduction have long recognised the validity of this point.

Legislation for and investment in injury prevention should sensibly be devoted principally to reducing the frequency and severity of adverse situations or conditions which have a high probability of contributing to serious harm, but neither spending nor legislation can be expected to eliminate the human factor, which so often is the fundamental cause of tragedy and grief.

Accidents will happen and far too frequently the victim is sadly the author of his own misfortune. So to distort the law as automatically to

Before allowing American, British, French and other professional soldiers in northern Iraq to be replaced by UN civilian police alone, very careful stock should be taken of what has happened when UN troops have been tasked to keep the peace in circumstances where no reliable agreement between the protagonists has been applied. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) is the obvious example.

Unifil was established immediately following the Israeli invasion of south Lebanon, in March 1978, which was a response to a serious Lebanon-based PLO terrorist attack near Tel Aviv. The Lebanese government, who had requested the force, could give nothing beyond verbal support and the other factions and interests in the area, not excluding the Israelis, have used the UN force as a political football ever since.

In a chaotic situation such as persists in parts of Lebanon and now appears in Iraq, lightly armed soldiers in blue berets, or policemen, are incapable of protecting civilians against regular or irregular forces with tank and artillery support. Worse still, they are vulnerable as objects of political coercion, by either of the factions they are supposed to keep apart, against the Security Council or any of the nations providing elements of the force. On the ground, UN troops can be humiliated and even murdered at will.

UN civilian police would be ideal for day-to-day dealings with the Kurdish civilians now being persuaded to move to "safe havens". Protection of those havens must remain with properly armed ground and air forces until we can be quite certain of Baghdad's longer-term intentions.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. TILLOTSON,
PO Box 12,
Bishop's Waltham,
Hampshire,
April 29.

produce a remedy for him would be both unreasonable and unsound.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. PHILLIPS, Deputy Chairman,
The Association of Insurance
and Risk Managers in Industry
and Commerce,
6 Lloyd's Avenue, EC3.

From Mr John LeM. Howard
Sir, There is plenty of factual evidence available to illustrate that accident research combined with good ergonomic design results in significant reductions in both accidents and/or consequential injuries. There is only controversial and anecdotal evidence to support your suggestion that "each practical improvement in safety [could] be compensated for by changed behaviour negating the improvement".

Fatal accidents in the home have fallen by about 30 per cent over the last 20 years and there is no doubt that safer products and safer environments have contributed substantially to this improvement.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LEM. HOWARD (Director
of Public Safety),
The Royal Society for the
Prevention of Accidents,
Birmingham 4.

Disapproval in church

From Mr J. A. S. Burn

Sir, Peter Royle (April 24) asks what one should do to express disapproval in church. He might like to follow an ancient practice. My great (x5) grandfather — whose name was the same as mine — was minister of the kirk of Anstruther Wester for 60 years (1703-63) and the family book records that he had a singular clerk who was the schoolmaster of the parish.

During the sermon if he approved the doctrine, he would say "land ye there, Andrew, land ye there". If, on the other hand, he disapproved the doctrine, he would say "toot, toot, mon", and leaving his desk would take a turn or two in the churchyard.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW BURN,
Ivy Cottage, Cleve,
Bristol, Avon.

German questions

From Dr Alan Sked

Sir, Your Bonn correspondent's report (April 24) that the German government has decided to send parachute and pioneer troops to Iran raises a number of interesting questions. Has Iran joined Nato? Has Germany changed her constitution?

On February 3 this year the German Ambassador wrote, in an article in *The Sunday Times*: "The German constitution prevents German troops being employed outside Nato territory". When I challenged this, on February 19, an official

From Father James M. Cassidy
Sir, Mr Peter Royle should remember the traditional way of showing disapproval of things of the Lord: "After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him" (John 6:66). There is always the door of the church, open for leaving as well as entering.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES M. CASSIDY,
Church of the Assumption,
Church House, Mulberry Green,
Harlow, Essex.

From Mr C. F. MacLaren
Sir, Expressing disapproval in church of clapping, stereophonic music, etc.? Polite remedy, barely audible — a muttered anathema. Yours sincerely,
C. F. MACLAREN,
The Old Post Office, Westbury,
Nr Brackley, Northamptonshire,
April 24.

protest was made to the Foreign Office by the German Embassy. Yet Dr Franz Moeller, the legal spokesman of the CDU, along with other constitutional experts, has backed my point of view.

Are we now to understand that the German government endorses the Bruges Group's interpretation of its constitution? If so, we welcome this admission.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SKED (Member,
Academic Advisory Council),
The Bruges Group,
Suite 102, 3 Whitehall Court,
Westminster, SW1,
April 26.

Uncommon murderers

From Lord Monson

Sir, Sir Frederick Lawton (April 23) errs in assuming that the British public have been nearly bamboozled by successive governments into accepting that a "life" sentence means what it says. He is also mistaken in believing that the massive vote in the House of Lords in favour of abolishing the mandatory life sentence for murder (report, April 19) indicates any tenderness towards this crime as a whole.

It is true that the consequence

might be relatively short sentences for mercy killing and sentences of moderate length for certain unpremeditated murders, although any change would be one of style rather than substance, since most people convicted of such crimes generally spend a relatively short time behind bars under the existing dispensation, notwithstanding their "life" sentence.

Against this, it will be open to judges to impose massive determinate sentences for what are generally considered to be the most heinous forms of murder. Sixty years, say, for the Harrods or Hyde Park

Risk of delay on EC aid to Africa

From the Director of the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (Cafod) and others

Sir, The European Commission's proposal of April 17 to send 400,000 tonnes of food aid to Africa is less than the 750,000 we had urged (report, April 16), but it is none the less substantial. Disagreement, however, persists among member states over how to pay for this aid and we are anxious that the EC should swiftly reach an agreement which does not draw on existing development budgets.

When member states meet again on May 2 there will be only six weeks for the EC to deliver the food before some of the famine-stricken countries, and the 27 million Africans at risk, face rains which — while possibly leading to fresh harvests — will at the same time wipe out transport routes. The worst possible outcome of that meeting would be further dithering, consigning thousands of Africans to death in May and June while the wrangling over the budget continues.

The British government has been

the most generous of the EC member states in agreeing new bilateral aid for Africa, and its announcement on April 15 of a further £33 million was much welcomed. Its support, though, for the larger package proposed by the EC is of critical importance. Since the UK contributes about 17 per cent of all EC spending, its support for the funding of the 400,000 tonnes would multiply almost six times its own contribution by unlocking those of other member states.

Unless the British government can ensure that the EC proceeds urgently with the 400,000 tonnes, thousands of lives are likely to be lost.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI (Cafod),
MICHAEL TAYLOR (Christian Aid),
DAVID JONES (Oxfam),
NICHOLAS HINTON (Save the Children),
SHELACH DIPLOCK (World Development Movement),
2 Romero Close, Stockwell, SW9,
April 30.

Teacher training

From the Chairman of the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education

Sir, Janet Daley ("School's out for ideologies", April 19) cites no evidence to support her claim that "the root of the problem [of teacher ideology] lies in the teacher training colleges". Instead, we get the hoary old "everyone knows" assertion familiar from essays strong on opinion and short on facts.

Teacher training colleges were abolished as such years ago. Teachers are now trained in 92 universities, polytechnics and other higher-education institutions. All courses have to be validated for academic content by university senates or by the Council for National Academic Awards. They are then scrutinised by one of the 23 local Councils for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (Cate) committees, on which business people sit alongside employers and serving teachers.

Local committee recommendations are further examined by Cate's

own scrutiny groups, and then by the council itself — which, again, has members from outside the world of education.

The criteria which all courses must satisfy if they are to survive this process are laid down by the secretary of state. There is a strong emphasis on practical knowledge and experience. Far from being unreformed, teacher education is still feeling the effects of the massive institutional upheavals of the 1970s. Keith Joseph, in approving accreditation criteria and setting up Cate, took the sensible step of focusing on the quality and relevance of course content; his successors have supported and built upon that initiative, which offers the best hope for real and sustained improvement in a field in which there is no one quick fix.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM TAYLOR, Chairman,
Council for the Accreditation of
Teacher Education.

Elizabeth House,
York Road, SE1,
April 23.

Religion in schools

From Mr Robert Jackson

Sir, What a pity that the recent discussion of religious education in your columns should be reduced by Mr Anthony Coombe, MP (April 12), to a crude distinction between "a Christian view" and what he calls "relative comparative religion". The legal advice reproduced in the recent letter to which he refers from the Department of Education and Science to chief education officers recognises how misleading such terminology is and warns against "such shorthand phrases as 'mainly Christian' or 'multifaith'" in interpreting section 8.3 of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The DES letter makes it plain that both Christianity and all the other principal religions represented in Britain need to be covered in religious education. Usually one would expect more time to be given to Christianity than to the other traditions, but the precise balance is a matter for local agreed-syllabus conferences to decide.

The essence of the DES letter is to advise that new agreed syllabuses

need to spell out content — whether about Christianity or the other faiths — in sufficient detail for teachers to be clear what is expected of them.

If the DES advice is followed, then, in principle, we ought to be turning out young people who are well informed and reflective about religious issues and concerns. The newly published National Curriculum Council analysis of the reports of local education authority standing advisory councils for religious education reveals the main reason why this goal is rarely being achieved: a shortage of properly qualified RE specialists in secondary schools and specialist RE co-ordinators in primary schools.

Perhaps Mr Coombe might turn his energies to supporting the staffing and resourcing of the subject. He would then be offering a real service to religious education.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT JACKSON (Chairman,
Conference of University Lecturers
in Religious Education),
University of Warwick,
Department of Arts Education,
Coventry CV4 7AL.

North of the Border

From Mr J. S. K. Milne

Sir, Both David Hume and his countryman but philosophical adversary, Professor James Beattie (author of an *Essay on Truth*), published lists of Scottisms, in 1752 and 1779 respectively. The former was the bête noir, the latter the darling of Dr Johnson.

By looking at their works and correspondence, therefore, it should be possible to form an impartial view as to the correctness of "Scottish" or "Scottish". They used either word, indiscriminately as far as I can tell, with "Scottish" probably being the more common.

If you wish me to calculate the comparative frequency, I shall require a fee of £1,000, sterling net Scots.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. K. MILNE,
The Arts Club,
40 Dover Street, W1,
April 23.

Knotty problem

From Miss Diana A. Bond

Sir, The tie (Mr Foster's letter, April 29) seems to fulfil a useful purpose in preventing food reaching the shirt front.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA A. BOND,
3 Heath Villas,
The Vale of Health,
Hampstead, NW3,
April 29.

bombings, or for murders involving torture, and 90 years for the Lockerbie massacre (meaning a minimum of 30 and 45 years respectively behind bars) would be vastly more awe-inspiring, and much more reassuring to the public, than the discredited sentence of "life" which the majority of people are firmly convinced entails spending no more than nine years in prison.

Yours faithfully,
MONSON,
House of Lords,
April 26.

Traffic hazard

From Mr A. H. P. Humphrey

Sir, The youths who wash wind-screens at traffic queues in London (letter, April 26) must, I think, be learners.

Their contemporaries in Rio de Janeiro deftly detach windshield wipers and, a quarter of a mile and a quarter of an hour later, reappear smiling alongside offering — at a price — to supply and fix windshield wipers while you wait.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. P. HUMPHREY,
14 Ambrose Place,
Worthing, Sussex,
April 29.

Snookered

From Mr John Brew

Sir, The English language has no word for describing the occasions when a player at snooker leads his opponent by more points than there are left on the table. The commentators have never really come to grips with this omission.

Sometimes they say "That makes the frame safe", which frequently proves to be incorrect. Or they use convoluted terminology, such as "If Steve pots this Jimmy will need snookers"; this isn't quite right either, because all Jimmy would need is a foul shot from his opponent. What would be helpful is a word like golf's "dormy" (which I admit doesn't quite fit), so that they could say "Just this pot will make Steve dormy".

Games have been a fertile source of new English words and metaphors. It is odd that snooker, which sees the very name of its game regularly used in everyday language, has not come up with a solution.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BREW,
Rowans,
17 Sandy Lodge Lane,
Northwood, Middlesex,
April 23.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

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● LAW 39
● SPORT 40-44

UK firm still in bidding

THE trade department will today name the three remaining bidders for the short-term insurance arm of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, which the government aims to sell off this summer.

Trade Indemnity, the credit insurer that made a loss of £29 million last year, is the only British company still in the race for the ECGD's Cardiff-based Insurance Services Group. NCM, of the Netherlands, which acts as official credit insurer for the Dutch government, is optimistic about securing ISG. Assicurazioni Generali, of Italy, is the other foreign bidder.

Left in the cold, page 27

Nu-Swift slips

Nu-Swift, the fire extinguisher and office services group, reported slightly reduced profits of £31.17 million (£31.83 million) for last year, on turnover of £342.31 million (£444.26 million) after the disposal of Sicil, its French subsidiary. Earnings rose from 36.8p to 42.18p a share. A final dividend of 10p (8p) raises the total payout from 15p to 18p.

Temps, page 27

Yule Catto falls

Yule Catto, the chemicals and building products group, reports pre-tax profits of £20.5 million for last year, against £21.3 million previously. A final dividend of 2.7p lifts the total for the year to 4.7p a share against 4.5p.

Temps, page 27

Evered rises

Evered-Bardon, the quarrying group formed in January when Evered took over Bardon Group in an agreed £87 million deal, has reported pre-tax profits from the premier Evered businesses rising 12.5 per cent to £43.9 million. The final dividend is maintained at 3.66p, giving a total of 5.59p (5.46p).

Temps, page 27

THE TIMES

Yesterday's Portfolio game has been declared void because of production difficulties affecting the content of some copies of The Times. The £2,000 prize is carried forward. We apologise to readers who received the incorrect copies.

US dollar

1.7115 (+0.0335)

German mark

2.9626 (-0.0019)

Exchange Index

91.4 (+0.7)

FT 30 Share

2486.2 (-12.0)

FT-SE 100

1953.7 (-8.9)

New York Dow Jones

2879.95 (+2.97)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

26111.25 (-12.43)

RISES

Allied Lyons 545p (+18p)

Bass 978p (+10p)

Yule Catto 143p (+10p)

Wills Common 374p (+8p)

Estates & Agency 275p (+13p)

Rothmans 'B' 845p (+12p)

S&U Stores 1374p (+12p)

FALLS

British Gas 226p (-8p)

News Corp 432p (-20p)

Racal Telecom 369p (-4p)

BAT 68p (-10p)

First Nat Fin 1924p (-12p)

Westpac 211p (-11p)

J Mowlem 278p (-4p)

Unilever 7274p (-10p)

Sturge Hodge 2594p (-12p)

Reuters 811p (-20p)

Thomson Corp 835p (-10p)

Chesterfield 825p (-8p)

Greycoat 326p (-11p)

Closing Prices...Page 29

CURRENCIES

London: Bank Base: 12%

3-month interbank 11 1/8-11 1/4%

3-month eligible bills 11 1/8-11 1/4%

US: Prime Rate 9 1/4%

Federal Funds 5 1/4%

3-month Treasury Bills 5.54-5.52%

30-year bonds 96 1/8-96 1/4%

INTEREST RATES

London: New York:

£ \$1.7115

£ DM2.9626

£ Sfr2.9626

£ FF10.191

£ Yen24.05

£ Indec3.4

ECU 16.72213

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CBI sees glimmer of hope for end of recession

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of the Confederation of British Industry have said that the recession seems to be coming to an end, although they reported that the downturn in output in the first quarter of this year had been much steeper than they had forecast.

In particular, the CBI's quarterly industrial trends survey, of 1,300 companies, revealed general business confidence showed the smallest fall for two years.

Ministers seized on the findings, after the forecast by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, in Washington this week that recovery in Britain was now "round the corner".

David Mellor, Treasury chief secretary, said in the Commons that

the survey showed a "marked increase in optimism and output expectations", while Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said it confirmed the Chancellor's assertion. He added: "We are indeed approaching the turning point."

Gordon Brown, Labour's industry spokesman, said, however, that the CBI results were "disastrous findings that show, as the CBI makes clear, that it is too early to speak of recovery." Alan Beith, Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, said: "This survey does not bear out Norman Lamont's recent optimism. Sadly, the light is at the end of a very long tunnel."

The CBI's economic assessment of the survey said: "The downturn in the economy which began in the

mid-Nineties now seems, on current evidence, to be coming to an end", but David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said: "Although the trend in output appears to be levelling out, it is too early to speak of recovery."

CBI analysts believe that what the survey really shows is that the fall in the economy is now declining much less steeply, though they will be unlikely to accept fully the notion of any recovery until they see a real improvement in hard home orders.

Companies predict the volume of new orders over the next four months will still fall, but the balance of those believing things will get worse, over those believing they will improve, is -8 per cent, up from

January's the -35 per cent. The volume of new orders over the past four months fell, however, from -33 to -41 per cent. This is in line with many of the survey's findings, which showed the last four months to be worse than the last survey suggested. Output, for instance, fell from -19 to -43 per cent, the steepest fall since October 1980. Manufacturing output is now 6.7 per cent below the level of a year ago, the CBI said, suggesting that official output figures have so far understated the decline. The CBI forecasts next quarter output to stand at 7.3 per cent below a year earlier.

Employment fell more sharply over the past four months than it did at the end of last year. In the last year, 200,000 jobs were lost in

manufacturing, with 82,000 going in the first quarter of this year. The CBI forecast a further 68,000 manufacturing jobs to go in the second quarter, and 45 per cent of companies surveyed said they intended to cut jobs over the next four months.

However, the CBI said its findings confirmed the Chancellor's forecasts on inflation, since they showed the rate of price increases over the last four months to be the lowest since October 1986 and the lowest in April for a decade.

Business confidence showed an improvement, up from a balance of -51 per cent in January to -17 per cent.

Leading article, page 19

Dealers rush to unload dollar

US rate cut catches G7 by surprise

From SUSAN ELLICOTT in WASHINGTON

AMERICAN central bankers surprised their economic allies yesterday by trimming a half point off short-term interest rates to 5.5 per cent after the weekend gathering of the Group of Seven nations in Washington.

At least one G7 representative said such a move had not been discussed. On foreign exchange markets, dealers rushed to unload the dollar, which plunged against all leading currencies.

The cut in the Federal Reserve discount rate follows pressure from the Bush Administration for easier credit and highlights moves by the world's seven leading industrialised nations away from the highly co-ordinated policies on currencies and interest rates of the late Eighties.

The Federal Reserve later attributed the need for a cut in the rate it charges on short-term loans to banks to worries about the depth of America's recession.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, speaking in Washington yesterday, implied that the Fed's easing of the discount rate was unexpected since it "was not specifically discussed" at the weekend meetings between the G7 finance ministers and central bank governors. However, he said that the move, which took effect at the start of trading on Wall Street, would not affect British Treasury policy.

Mr Lamont said: "Our interest rates will continue to be

set by our position in the exchange-rate mechanism and the need to reduce inflation." He added, however, that the downward move would help the world economy and British exports.

Japanese and German officials said they had no plans to follow the American action, backing the view that America had failed at meetings with financial policy makers from Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Canada and Italy to win support for a short-term goal of lower interest rates. In particular, Germany and Japan argued that easier credit might worsen domestic inflationary pressures. The G7 meeting ended on Sunday night with a joint communiqué allowing members the leeway to pursue their own interest-rate policies, easing credit as financial markets permit.

This also emerged as the strategy preferred by the board of directors of the International Monetary Fund, which yesterday wrapped up its spring discussions with a

statement mirroring the language adopted by the G7 about paving the way for lower real interest rates while working toward growth with low inflation.

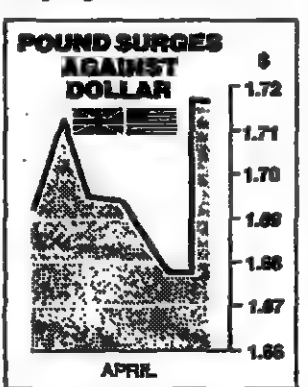
President Bush welcomed the discount rate cut, which was expected to be followed by lower lending rates to business and consumer borrowers, as good news for the American and world economies. The relaxation of the benchmark rate, which the Fed charges commercial banks, was the third since mid-December. In a statement, the Fed attributed its latest action to continuing weakness, especially in industrial capital goods, but also noted diminishing concerns about inflation.

The American action was also seen as a sign of the reduced clout of G7 to address global economic concerns.

The only supporter of America's drive to encourage world growth through easier credit was France, whose finance minister, Pierre Bérégovoy, described the discount rate cut as "in the spirit of the G7 communiqué". Faced with slowing growth, France is keen to cut interest rates on the ground that countries should be concentrating on preventing the spread of the recession.

The cut in the American discount rate sent the dollar into steep retreat on the foreign exchange markets, turning a trickle of technical sales into a torrent, as dealers rushed to unload the currency.

The dollar closed at DM1.7165 in London, a fall of more than 5 pennings.



Coats increases Tootal bid

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

COATS Viyella stepped up its bid for control of Tootal, the rival textiles group, with a big increase in its cash offer, a share exchange alternative and a raid on the market.

The assault proved far from a knockout blow, however, and, while Tootal was rejecting the new terms, which it said, "do not fairly reflect Tootal's value or prospects", relatively few investors took the opportunity to sell to Coats' brokers in the stock

market. The bidders are, however, thought to have taken their holding previously 29.4 per cent, through 30 per cent. Coats' new terms value Tootal at £251.6 million. Tootal shareholders are offered 23 Coats shares and £51.02 in cash for every 100 shares they hold, an exchange worth 83.3p a share at Monday night's prices.

They can elect either to take 80p a share, or to forgo cash in return for shares worth up to

89.2p, although this is conditional on Coats' shareholders' approval of an increase in the share capital. Holders would also keep Tootal's 3.05p final dividend. Neville Bain, Coats' chief executive, said the revised offer, which compares with Coats' opening bid of 65p a share in cash, valuing the group at £194 million, was final.

Comment, page 27

Risking life and limb in Gulf

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE job description is terrifying and the working conditions atrocious, but Royal Ordnance has received numerous calls from former servicemen anxious to sign up for munitions disposal work in Kuwait.

Part of British Aerospace, the company has beaten strong overseas competition to remove unexploded bombs, mines and ammunition from Kuwait. The value of the contract has not been disclosed, but could run to tens of millions of pounds.

The 50 Royal Ordnance personnel already in Kuwait have cleared explosives from 45 oil wellheads to make them safe for fire fighters.

However, 200 personnel from the British Army's 21 Explosives Ordnance Dis-

posal Squadron, formed to clear up after the Gulf war, will be sent to Kuwait.

They will work under contract to Ordnance for up to four months to locate, survey and mark unexploded munitions and minefields. They will also advise Ordnance staff. Ordnance will meet the costs of the unit, which are yet to be quantified.

A defence ministry spokesman said a single corporal would receive his annual salary of £13,200 a year, plus a 10.5 per cent supplement for hazardous duties, and a daily overseas allowance of 93p.

Ordnance declined to say what it would pay a civilian in similar work. It has taken out insurance against any mishap involving soldiers or staff. The ethics of employing military

personnel on such a dangerous commercial contract may be questioned. However, the ministry spokesman said: "It is very good experience for our guys. Although the work is naturally hazardous, this is their chosen profession."

Equally dangerous work, however, will fall to up to 400 civilians, many of them former army bomb disposal specialists, who will be hired to destroy the munitions. Ordnance was unable to say how much it would pay men and women prepared to risk life and limb in this way, but it appears there is no shortage of willing recruits. The work could last a year or more.

British Telecom has become the first telephone company to restore international direct dial facilities to Kuwait.



In the lions' den: Robert Maxwell at the London launch of MGN share offer yesterday

Mirror advisers abandon placing

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE advisers to Mirror Group Newspapers' flotation have been forced to abandon a share placing in Britain after pressure from institutions.

Smith New Court, MGN's broker, has cancelled its plans for a placing in Britain, and decided instead to hold a single offer for sale, open to public and institutions alike.

Sir Michael Richardson, the firm's chairman, said 50 investment managers told him they wanted a normal sub-underwritten offer, as the float was too small to warrant a separate placing. MGN has also cut the number of shares on sale in Britain. Salomon Brothers, the investment firm, will now place 40 per cent of MGN with foreign institutions, against an original 33 per cent.

MGN's offer was launched in London yesterday. The company is offering a notional dividend of 6.5p, giving a 7 per cent yield to attract investors. Analysts had expected a 6.5 per cent yield.

The company is issuing 114 million shares at 125p each worth £24.5 million, to raise £22 million after £17.5 million in flotation fees. The price values MGN at £501 million. Robert Maxwell, the chairman, said the share offer was a chance to invest in "an exceptional company which touches the lives of 14 million people. Even a one-eyed Albanian would think the shares will go to a premium". But analysts warned prospective investors profits may stagnate this year due to a possible loss at Donohue, MGN's Canadian timber associate.

Comment, page 27

CURRENCY LOANS FROM RFCL

YOUR MORTGAGE: BURDEN OR INVESTMENT?

Most would agree that the surest way to profit from savings lies in a long-term investment policy, managed by experts to achieve the greatest growth and the highest rates of return.

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New agenda from DTI has a cool reception

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, has laid out the government's industrial policy for the Nineties and a "new agenda" for the trade and industry department.

Mr Lilley's move marks a clear attempt to rebut some of the considerable criticism of the trade and industry department over its unclear role and poor relations with industry and business.

However, Labour castigated Mr Lilley for offering nothing new in his speech yesterday. Gordon Brown, shadow industry secretary, described it as a "vacuous public relations exercise in which there are no

new ideas, no new initiative and no new resources". Industrialists would despair at the speech, Mr Brown said, which he said made the DTI "an object of ridicule".

He said it was an attempted relaunch for the DTI that had been trumpeted for weeks, but had evaporated in minutes: "A no-change policy for a do-nothing department which will carry no credibility."

There was no new direction "other than the old Thatcherite ideology which he continues to praise".

Business leaders seem likely to agree broadly with Mr Brown. Last month, the Confederation of British Industry called for far-reaching changes in the DTI. It said a survey of its membership had shown the DTI was not seen as effective.

Bass rejigs Holiday Inn chain

BASS, the brewer and hotelier, is reorganising its 1,600 hotel Holiday Inn Worldwide chain, which has suffered from the downturn in international travel caused by the recession and the Gulf war.

The rejig includes the disposal of three non-core subsidiaries involved in purchasing and financing, the formation of a global quality and standards division, the establishment of the managed hotels division as a separate profit centre and the streamlining of the marketing division.

Issue succeeds

British Land, the property company, has successfully raised £100 million through an issue of 25-year bonds. The bonds have been issued at £100.68 per cent, to give an initial yield of 12.415 per cent.

Funds sought

Automated Security (Holdings), the burglar alarms and security systems group, is to raise £60 million through an issue of convertible capital bonds. An offer to shareholders will be at an issue price of 100p, but £12.5 million of the bonds will be made available to outside investors.

Figures delayed

Bellwinch, the troubled South-east housebuilder, is to delay publishing its interim figures for the second half of last year until it has concluded negotiations for an injection of new capital.

Losses trimmed

Addison Consultancy, the market research group, said pre-tax losses were cut from £368,000 to £95,000 last year and forecast a return to profits this year. There is no dividend, compared with 0.6p last time.

UB venture

United Biscuits (Holdings), the biscuits to savoury snacks group, is forming a Spanish snacks joint venture called KP Larios with Grupo Larios, a leading Spanish spirits company.

Speaking at an Institute of Directors' lunch in Birmingham, Mr Lilley laid great stress in rejecting the corporatist approach to industrial policy. He said that this had not only failed in Britain, but in Japan and Germany as well.

Launching a new set of policy objectives for the DTI, he said: "Our industrial policy is to foster and extend the competitive environment, thereby encouraging innovation, which is the engine of growth." But that did not mean governments had no role to play. Governments had a role in four areas: competition, innovation, deregulation and providing a two-way channel of communication with industry.

Mr Lilley said he did not want to reopen the "sterile" debate on the relative importance of manufacturing and services, but he could not imagine a healthy British economy without a vigorous manufacturing sector.

He said: "One reason why it is right to focus on manufacturing is that it suffered disproportionately from the malaises which afflicted the British economy in the 1960s and 1970s and earlier."

He laid greatest emphasis on innovation, and accepted the market on its own would not generate adequate investment in pure or pre-competitive research and development. That explained the government's role in supporting R&D. He added the government spent a higher percentage of GDP on research and development than did the Japanese government.

Homes Assured directors charged

By OUR CITY STAFF

TWO directors and a chartered accountant of Homes Assured, the failed mortgage broker, were charged yesterday at King's Cross police station in London with defrauding creditors.

They were granted bail to appear at Clerkenwell mag-



Skin-tight: Frank di Angeli (right) shakes on the Devro deal with Gordon Bonnyman and Katherine Hood of Charterhouse Development Capital and John Neilson, joint managing director of Devro

Devro ties up £108m buyout

By MARTIN BARROW

MANAGERS of Devro, a Scottish sausage casings maker, have completed the first large buyout of the year, raising £107.7 million to acquire their company from its American parent.

The company, which has two factories in Scotland and one each in America and Australia, is being acquired from Johnson & Johnson, the American healthcare concern, in a buyout structured and financed by Charterhouse Development Capital, the main institutional investor.

Management and employees are investing £400,000. There is a strong Scottish bias

among equity investors injecting £30 million. As well as Charterhouse, owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland, they include Clydesdale Equity, Dundee Ventures, County NatWest, Standard Life, Barings, Citicorp and Bots.

Senior debt finance of £68 million, including working capital requirements, is provided by a syndicate of leading international banks, led by First National Bank of Chicago, the Industrial Bank of Japan and Royal Bank of Scotland. Mezzanine finance of £12.2 million has been provided by a syndicate led by Mezzanine Management. The

company has made no formal commitment to seek a listing but says a flotation may eventually be considered.

The unlikely link between the healthcare company and a sausage casing maker dates from 1964. Johnson & Johnson was searching for alternative materials for medical sutures when it discovered Devro, which uses edible collagen in sausage casings as an alternative to animal intestines. Several attempts to sever the connection between the two companies floundered until the appointment last year of Frank de Angeli, a former director of Johnson &

Johnson, as chairman and chief executive of Devro.

John Neilson, joint managing director of Devro, estimates that the company is the world's largest supplier of collagen casings, which account for about 20 per cent of the overall market. It is the market's fastest-growing sector.

Devro's strong market position and steady demand for the low-ticket meat products that use its casings appear to have protected the company from the recession. Last year it earned operating income of £17.6 million on sales of £70.1 million.

Leeds Society turns up heat in dispute with Treasury

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Leeds Permanent Building Society has accused the government of a conspiracy of silence over its attempt to keep £37 million of the society's money.

The fifth-largest society is working with the Building Societies Association and other societies to overturn clause 50 of the finance bill, which received its second reading yesterday.

The clause will cost societies £250 million, which they maintain is double taxation because of the change in 1985 of the mechanics of collecting tax on interest. Norman

Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, claimed in his Budget speech that, without the clause, societies would receive a "windfall" gain.

The Woolwich, the third-largest society, took its case to the House of Lords and won a £70 million refund in October after the lords ruled that the government had taxed the society twice. The Budget announcement was intended to stop all the other societies from successfully making similar court claims.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Leeds, has written twice to the Chancellor in an attempt to set up a meeting with ministers about the clause. Yesterday, he released copies of these letters and of two to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the attorney general, and explained how the campaign to retrieve the cash would proceed. "This money belongs to the Leeds and its members, and if the government thinks we will go away, it is mistaken," said Mr Blackburn.

The Leeds, which had supported the Woolwich in its case, lodged a claim with the Inland Revenue immediately after the Woolwich's victory last October. This had been

ignored, said Mr Blackburn. If no meeting with Treasury ministers is forthcoming, the next stage would be for the Leeds to write to its 3 million members, alerting them to the battle. Mr Blackburn said Leeds had not written to members before the second reading because it had "no desire to have a great song and dance about it".

Mr Blackburn added: "We have given the government every opportunity to deal with it quietly and sensibly. It would be negligent of us, given the size of the issue, not to bring it to the attention of our members. It will cost us at least £500,000 to write to them but we deem that to be proper use of members' funds."

"Clearly we will be wanting members to be aware of the situation and to consider individually what action they want to take. As we are a national society there could be growing mailbags."

One member suggested the Leeds adopt the tactics of Arthur Daley, who features in its television advertisements. "He felt very strongly that the Inland Revenue was stealing his money," said Mr Blackburn.

Bankers called to account on bad debt

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NEW guidelines from the British Bankers' Association call on banks to reveal more about their bad debt portfolios and their provisions.

The BBA has published a statement of recommended accounting practice (SORP) giving banks guidelines on how to account for their lending. The statement calls on banks to break down their bad debt exposure, and should highlight banks that have concealed heavy exposures to leveraged buyouts or property development within their overall provisions.

The statement restricts banks' use of general provisions. In the past, many merchant banks have used general provisions to improve reserves. The BBA told banks they can only make general provisions against bad debts that have already occurred but have not been discovered.

The SORP forbids institutions to set aside provisions on future losses. This is the third of four statements the BBA is publishing to try to standardise bank accounting.

City bank chairman charged

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of Wallace Smith Trust, the City merchant bank, has been charged with fraudulent trading after the Bank of England moved in to wind up the bank and appoint provisional liquidators.

Duncan Smith, aged 56, appeared in the Guildhall justice rooms. He was charged

with being a party to the business of Wallace Smith with intent to defraud creditors between the beginning of 1985 and last Monday. The judge remanded him in custody for a week.

The Bank of England was granted a court petition to wind up the bank, which it suspended on Monday. Tim Hayward and Bill Ratford from KPMG Peat Marwick

McIntock have been appointed as provisional liquidators. The liquidators said they were realising the bank's outstanding trading positions. A further announcement is due this afternoon.

Wallace Smith was a small merchant bank whose activities covered a wide range of trade finance, treasury and futures dealing, asset management and corporate finance.

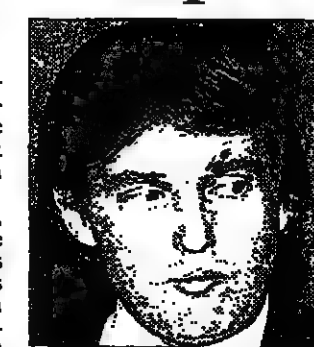
Trump slumps from \$2bn to \$2m

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

DONALD Trump, the American property and casino financier whose lifestyle of private jets and yachts epitomised fast living in the Eighties, is down to his last \$2 million.

The Trump Organisation, his private empire, was once valued at \$2 billion, but its casinos, hotels and properties are not generating enough money to meet interest payments on the \$3 billion of debt used to buy them.

At one time, Mr Trump's personal guarantee was enough for any of the main British and American banks to lend him millions. But the \$10 million divorce settlement for his wife, Ivana, increased pressure on his personal finances and the banks now



Under pressure: Trump

prefer hard assets. They are calling in almost \$800 million of the loans he guaranteed personally.

Stephen Bollenbach, Trump's new financial officer, said nine banks had agreed to take assets. Chase Manhattan will take the \$7 million Boeing

727 private jet and keep half the proceeds from its sale. Citicorp, America's largest bank, has agreed to fund a buyout of the Trump Shuttle, the east coast commuter airline service, by Northwest Airlines. This relieves Trump of \$135 million of debts. The bank is also expected to get Trump's 27 per cent stake in Alexander's, the department store in Lexington Avenue, New York, and is believed to want to repossess the Plaza Hotel, also in New York. Mr Trump retains the nearby Trump Tower.

Mr Trump's 282-ft yacht, the Trump Princess, will go to American Express and a 49 per cent stake in the New York Grand Hyatt hotel will be taken by Bankers Trust for about \$80 million.

Details of the deals emerged from documents lodged with the Atlantic City casino control commission, which is examining Mr Trump's financial health as part of a review of two of his gaming licences.

Mr Bollenbach told regulators in a letter: "I am encouraged and confident that we will meet our June 17 target of having signed agreements with all the banks."

The position of \$50 million lent to Mr Trump by National Westminster Bank's American subsidiary to help fund the Taj Mahal, the biggest of his three casinos, is still unclear. As part of restructuring the debts, the casino will take on the \$50 million that was personally guaranteed by Mr Trump, but Mr Bollenbach said it was likely Mr Trump would still have some personal debts to the bank.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

William Baird seeks £39m in rights issue

WILLIAM Baird, the textile and engineering group, is raising £39 million through a one-for-five rights issue. Existing shares dropped 20p to 238p on the news. The new shares are being issued at 210p, an 18.6 per cent discount to yesterday's opening price.

Baird's figures for last year showed static pre-tax profits of £33.8 million. Money raised by the issue is to be invested in Baird's existing businesses and on acquisitions. Donald Parr, the chairman, said: "He believes the economic downturn will produce opportunities. 'The rights issue will enable us to continue our successful development programme by taking advantage of these opportunities whilst maintaining our gearing and interest cover at conservative levels.'" Baird finished last year with net borrowings of £33 million, although this has since risen to £49 million, giving gearing of 38 per cent.

S&U Stores raises payout

S&U STORES, the consumer credit and merchandising group, is proposing an increased final dividend of 6p (4.5p), making 8p (6p) for the year, after a 23 per cent advance in full-year profits to end-January. Pre-tax profits were ahead to £3.43 million (£2.83 million). Earnings per share rose to 21.53p (17.8p), with fully diluted earnings at 21.53p (17.66p). Shares rose 9p to 135p.

Losses cut at Atlantic

ATLANTIC Resources, the Irish oil and gas explorer quoted on the USM, has cut pre-tax losses from £1.3 million to £1.609,000 (£564,000) in the year to end-December, although last time's figure included a £2.2 million exceptional charge. The loss per share is trimmed to 0.4p (1.7p). Again, there is no dividend. Turnover was £1.27 million (£1,404,000).

Burnfield in £8m deal

BURNFIELD, the specialist heating group, is making a £7.99 million placing and open offer to fund the £8 million acquisition of Budenberg Gauge Company, the Cheshire firm.

The consideration for Budenberg will be satisfied by the issue of 4.32 million new ordinary shares. Of these, 4.1 million, which will be conditionally placed by de Zoete & Bevan, will be offered to shareholders at the placing price of 185p per share on a one-for-3.563 basis. Burnfield shares eased 1p to 197p. Budenberg made an operating profit of £941,000 (£1.23 million) in the year to end-December.

Laser-Scan back in black

LASER-SCAN Holdings, the mapping software supplier, made pre-tax profits of £769,000 (£1.3 million loss) for the year to end-December. Only £26,000 of the profit was made in the second half, partly due to a moratorium on some orders by the defence ministry. Earnings were 4.7p (11.4p loss) a share. Once again, there is no dividend. The shares rose 5p to 35p.

Greenacre rises by 8%

GREENACRE Group, the Unlisted Securities Market nursing home operator, formerly known as Brewmaker, lifted full-year profits by 8 per cent. Pre-tax profits climbed from £496,733 to £535,521 in the year to end-January. Earnings per share slipped to 0.47p (0.55p). There is an increased final dividend of 0.125p (0.1p), making an improved total of 0.225p (0.2p) for the year.

Futura cuts payout

FUTURA Holdings, the footwear manufacturer, has cut its final dividend to 0.75p (1.5p), making 1.25p (2p) for the year, after sliding deeper into the red. The company suffered a pre-tax loss of £601,000 in the year to end-December, against profits of £161,000 last time.

Futura had incurred a first-half loss of £550,000. Sales climbed from £6.33 million to £6.64 million. There was a 15.26p loss per share, against earnings of 2.95p previously. Profits on the sale of investments produced an extraordinary credit of £121,000.

Peace declared in Mondadori battle

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPE BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Italy's most bitter takeover battles has come to an end with an agreement between Carlo De Benedetti and Silvio Berlusconi, two of Italy's best known businessmen, over the future ownership of Arnoldo Mondadori Editore, a publishing company whose titles include *La Repubblica*, the daily newspaper.

Under the agreement reached yesterday, Signor De Benedetti will take control of Mondadori's newspaper interests, while Signor Berlusconi will control the general

publishing businesses and receive a compensation payment by Signor De Benedetti of £1.185 billion (£85 million).

The agreement ends a 16-month battle. In 1988, Signor De Benedetti took control of Mondadori after forming an alliance with the Formenton family, descendants of the original Mondadori. He later lost his majority on the board after the Formentons switched allegiance to Signor Berlusconi. Signor De Benedetti has fought ever since to regain control, in a series of legal proceedings.

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Crack in the Mirror's image

Mirror Group Newspapers is a fine business. If there were no qualifications to that judgement, the flotation would doubtless be attracting much more buying interest in the City than seems likely, however hard Sir Michael Richardson of Smith New Court, the broker, has worked. As it is, the terms of the issue have had to be fixed at a more generous level than expected. The dividend yield has come up to 7 per cent and as many shares as possible have needed to be sold to produce the desired proceeds, while leaving Robert Maxwell's family with a controlling stake.

Most of the issue is therefore targeted at private individuals and fully 40 per cent is to be pitched at overseas, predominantly American institutional investors. Confidence in American interest reflects a different perception of Mr Maxwell which is the key to the flotation.

In America, the swashbuckling Captain Bob is seen merely as the brave and ambitious opportunist who had the confidence to buy the failing *Daily News* in New York as well as paying top whack

for Macmillan and expanding into a variety of other interests. In Britain, while few would deny those qualities, they are overlaid by long and varied experience of the mixing of Mr Maxwell's private and public interests. The results have not endeared him to investors.

At Maxwell Communications, the biggest quoted Maxwell company, outside shareholders benefited from the initial remarkable turnaround of fortunes but, despite a variety of deals, have seen no rise in earnings per share since 1984. Until recently, MCC shares could only find buyers on a dividend yield of 13 per cent, though that is now down to 9 per cent.

A similar turnaround was achieved at MGN. That was largely under Mr Maxwell's private ownership however, though some printing interests did move to and fro. Today, the business earns good profits but is being sold at 10 times 1990 earnings

during an uncertain period when efforts at home may be undermined by the fortunes of North American associates that scarcely sit logically in the group. The fully underwritten flotation is designed to finance other private interests, including the *Daily News* and *The European* which, if successful, may be sold to MGN. This has proved a costly funding exercise, with £17 million going in fees. Small private investors should heed the City's scepticism before joining in.

Ungilded

Peter Thacker, an apostle of Thatcherism and a leader of the No Turning Back group, pole-vaulted into the cabinet in the last days of his political

mentor. That faces him with a personal dilemma.

His trade and industry department, which once seemed at the cutting edge of government policy but is now demoralised and uncertain after a bewildering succession of secretaries of state, faces the same dilemma. Is the government's industrial policy still radical or has the harsher agenda been buried?

Mr Lilley has delivered a carefully-prepared 6,500-word manifesto of his department's policy for the decade in a vain attempt to clear the air. His disappointingly mundane message was mainly a justification of the past, assuring the world that competition, de-regulation and promotion of grass-roots enterprise remain in, while continental corporatism remains out.

hardly helps British companies trying to cope with attacks on their market position at home while having to cope with continental competitors who operate hand in glove with their governments. Mr Lilley does not see a problem. He sees a European Community moving away from corporatism and protection where others see a Commission wedded to them.

He might better have quoted a good example of a new or at least renewed form of government-industry co-operation. Before the Gulf war had been won, DTI officials and a range of business leaders acted quickly and decisively to maximise the opportunities for British companies in rebuilding Kuwait.

Hard detail, practical advice and on-the-ground assistance took the place of whirling words. One tiny result is that yesterday Britain became the first country to restore normal international telephone links with Kuwait.

This co-operation is far from the Seventies corporatism of which Mr Lilley is rightly so sniffy. Yet its practical achievements do not merit a mention in Mr Lilley's agenda of theory.

Tight fit

Coats Viyella is relying on its initial near 30 per cent stake in Tootal to win control, for its final bid, though much increased, is certainly no knock-out blow at about 10 times forecast earnings. The sharp recovery in Tootal profits has proved an embarrassment for the bidder.

To escape, however, Tootal now has to convince other shareholders that this recovery is not a flash in the pan.

That will be a testing challenge, given the history of the industry and the limitations imposed by the City takeover code. After lasting so long already, this battle seems destined to the final bell.

For the sake of the City's reputation, it should be decided on merit and not by cynical institutions selling in the market in the final days.

Exporters feel left in the cold when state reinsurance fades

IN HIS debut as Chancellor before a business audience in November 1989, John Major issued a warning to British industry that it would have to export effectively or die in the hard times that lay ahead. The counter-inflationary squeeze would ensure that domestic demand was suppressed.

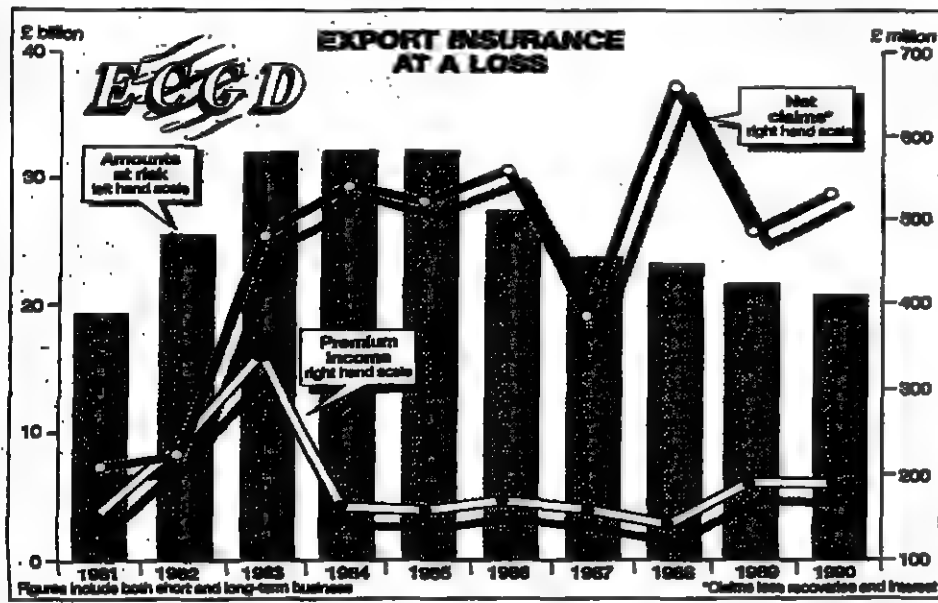
The message was crystal clear. The captains of industry batted down for recession on the home front and set their sights increasingly on markets overseas.

In these circumstances, it was understandable that exporters might have expected the government to be more supportive over official export credit guarantees, or at least prevent British firms from being put at a disadvantage against competitors abroad. While wholly understandable, the assumption made by much of industry has proved badly wrong.

The Department of Trade and Industry was in no mood to tone down, or short, plans for part-privatising the Export Credits Guarantee Department, a DTI agency. This privatisation programme had been welcomed as a success at home and abroad, not just among "Thatcherites". The show had to go on. The disposal of ECGD's insurance services group (ISG), which is based in Cardiff and covers exports worth £13 billion a year, would proceed, fair weather or foul.

But part-privatisation of the ECGD inevitably meant entering the tricky waters of reducing the government's overall exposure on export credit. After the short-term ISG business was sold, there would be the costly long-term and project business to deal with.

For a government pledged to good housekeeping with taxpayers' money, ECGD deficits were an obvious target for paring losses, another subsidy to be ended. After provisions and all costs, the overall deficit reached a record £3.13 billion in 1989-90, the culmination of a decade of big losses. Provisions for bad and doubtful debt, made in accordance with Bank of England guidelines, had to be almost doubled to £7.25 billion. While net claims



jumped nearly £50 million to £334 million, premium income slipped £3 million to £188 million. Doubtless, these numbers helped galvanise Mr Lilley's resolve in the face of fierce lobbying from exporters, their City backers and, increasingly, among Conservative MPs.

The British Exporters Association has given vigorous expression to widespread fears that the government is effecting "unilateral disarmament" on export credit support at the worst possible moment.

The problem is not the launching of the ISG into the private sector; it is the in-

creased ECGD bill through the Commons, has tried to reassure doubters that the government will continue to provide reinsurance on exports to politically risky markets after the disposal of ISG.

But having quashed MPs' attempts to secure a statutory commitment to maintaining the reinsurance facility, Mr Sainsbury offered little comfort to exporters. State-backed reinsurance cover will be temporary, lasting up to three years after privatisation.

For British exporters, this all points to a future of reduced official cover at rising prices. Competitors in other

credit markets. In practice, it has not happened.

With the stock of easy privatisation candidates dwindling, the ISG sale might have looked attractive to the government. However, the political bad blood it has generated on top of the uncertainty for exporters would seem to be a high cost for small return. The list of willing British and foreign buyers has shortened. The £100 million expected proceeds have been marked down severely.

Sun Alliance, the insurance company that dropped out of the bidding this week, said the ISG's prospective net income of £22 million was insufficient to justify the cost of integrating the business. In the financial year to April, the short-term business made a loss of £190 million on premium income of £74 million, including some business the government will retain. Assets to be sold off are expected to be trading profitably.

The lottery of the parliamentary timetable means the ECGD bill will receive its second reading in the Lords in June, instead of May, as the government intended, endangering Mr Lilley's target of completing the ISG sale by July. Exporters, and possibly some ministers, will be hoping he uses any delay for a rethink on export credits.

COLIN KARBROUGH
Economics Correspondent

'Exporters might have expected more support from government'

crosses in premiums announced, or under review, in over 60 markets, including important countries, such as South Africa, the Soviet Union, China, and Hong Kong.

While that move represents the Treasury's drive to put ECGD premiums on a footing closer to the commercial insurance market, the scrapping by the government this month of a Tory backbench amendment to the ECGD privatisation bill confirmed exporters' anxieties that the government wants to withdraw from backing political risk. Tim Sainsbury, the trade minister who

parts of the European Community will meanwhile continue to enjoy considerable support from their respective governments, even where export insurance cover has been turned out to non-government bodies.

The British Exporters Association estimates that medium-term cover in Britain will cost two to three times as much as in other EC countries. So where is the level playing field that was supposed to attend the advent of the single market after 1992? As the government has pointed out, the EC should be harmonising policy on export

Unit trust funds' rise to £56bn sets record

THE value of unit trust funds increased by £9.8 billion in the first quarter to £56.2 billion, the Unit Trust Association has said. Gross sales topped £3 billion for the first time since the 1987 stock market crash.

Philip Warland, director general of the association, said yesterday that the 21 per cent rise in funds under management was the largest in a single quarter.

The FT-SE 100 index rose 13 per cent over the same period.

Gross sales during March, at £1.19 billion, were the second highest since the crash. Net new investment fell to £308.5 million as a result of repurchases almost doubling to £880.9 million. The increase was due to several large institutional transactions and the usual increase in disposals at the end of the financial year.

Personal equity plan (PEP) sales totalled £229 million during the quarter and 100,000 new accounts were opened, bringing the total of unit trust PEPs to 687,000. Mr Warland said part of the increase was due to the limit for unit trust investment being increased in 1990-1.

Barry Bateman, managing director of Fidelity and the new chairman of the association, criticised the government for bias against collective investments in limiting PEP investment for unit trusts and investment trusts.

LINDSAY COOK
Money Editor

EC agrees policy outline on access to Japanese cars

EUROPEAN commissioners have finalised the outline of their policy on the relaxation of import quotas for Japanese cars, which they hope will allow a deal on the post-1992 market to be struck with Tokyo.

The policy does not appear to contain a date for the end of the transition period to complete market freedom or figures for the maximum market share during the changeover. But the suggestion that the negotiators should insist on a "reciprocal" market access in Japan was defeated, according to one source.

The agreed line will be put to national ministers later this month and officials in Brussels hope an agreement with the Japanese government, which has been waiting for a decision more than a year, can be tied up by July. Jacques Delors, president of the commission, will visit Tokyo within the next few weeks.

The decision is of particular significance for Britain, where Nissan is already producing cars and Honda and Toyota are building plants.

Junji Namata, managing director of Toyota, has given warning that investment in his company's £700 million assembly plant under construction at Burnaston, Derbyshire, could be curtailed if its products were not allowed free circulation within the European Community.

The commissioners' decision appears to signal defeat for Jacques Calvet, president of PSA, the French group that



Signal of defeat: Jacques Calvet, the PSA president

makes Peugeot and Citroën cars. He is an outspoken champion of the principle of reciprocal access. M. Calvet had also campaigned for strict rules on the local content of cars assembled by Japanese manufacturers in Europe.

Applying single European market principles to cars has been a divisive issue for two years in Brussels, because Japanese imports are limited to small shares of the national markets in France and Italy. The dispute has been over the

length of the transition and the rate of change.

The commission was understood recently to be considering a six-year transition period and allowing the Japanese market share to rise from 10 per cent to 18 per cent. Car industry representatives had argued for a seven-year period and a 15 per cent ceiling. Market share quotas for individual countries have not yet been decided.

GEORGE BROCK
Brussels

Evered-Bardon has promise

BARELY three months since Evered took over Bardon Group in an £87 million deal that both sides insist was a merger, it is far too soon to determine how successful a corporate union this will be.

The early signs are, however, modestly encouraging, given the appalling market place for quarrying companies at the moment.

Yesterday's results from Evered-Bardon for the year to end-December show pre-tax profits rising 12.5 per cent to £43.9 million. In spite of the change in name, the figures do not encompass Bardon, which made a much less encouraging pre-tax profit of £3.9 million over the same period, sharply down on the £12 million it made over a nine month period in 1989. Evered-Bardon is paying an unchanged final dividend of 3.66p giving a total of 5.595p (5.46p).

Although the two companies merged in January, their accounts will be consolidated only for the last nine months of this year, which promises to lessen the impact of an awful first quarter for Bardon, particularly in America.

Evered-Bardon finished last year with net borrowings of £141.2 million. With Bardon on board, the debt level has risen to £210 million. With Bardon's substantial debts came some considerable assets, which raise the merged group's net assets to £395 million. The gearing level is thus restrained to 53 per cent.

In spite of the resilience of Evered last year, there will be no backing the depressed market this year, when the company could make around £36 million. At 94p, the shares are on a price/earnings multiple of 13 and look a reasonable buy for the 1992 portfolio.

Yule Catto
WITH the £16.5 million sale last October of the bulk of its Malaysian estates, Yule Catto effectively completed the

break with its plantation management past, but the company's credentials as a chemicals and building products business are still not fully recognised.

The full picture remains obscured by the comings and goings of the past year, but while the various disposals and the acquisition of Unilock will have impacted on pre-tax profits, which emerged at £20.5 million against £21.3 million, it is encouraging to see earnings per share up from 13.9p to 14.2p.

It is better still to hear that the special chemicals division, which disappeared in the first half, has already turned the corner, and that building products achieved organic growth. But then the bulk of the group's profits are made outside recessionary Britain.

Despite a positive contribution from trading operations, the £28 million acquisition programme led to a net cash outflow during the year, and the £19.5 million goodwill write-off sent balance sheet gearing rocketing from 25.3 to 81 per cent. Nevertheless, interest cover remains healthy, at more than six times, and the prospective price/earnings multiple drops to about 8.7 if profits can be nudged forward to £22 million this year. Yesterday's 10p rise to 143p may be just the beginning of a re-rating.

Nu-Swift

IT GOES against the trend for a fully quoted company to accept demotion to the Unlisted Securities Market, but Nu-Swift is an unusual company.

Nu-Swift switches because the International Stock Exchange ruled that less than 25 per cent of its share capital was in public hands. Tony Murray, the chairman, holds 60 per cent, while ADT has 20

per cent. On the USM, where just 10 per cent of the company need be available, Nu-Swift can be expected to resume the aggressive buy-in of its own shares.

The company does not lack the resources, because it is awash with cash after the sale of Sici, its French fire equipment subsidiary, for £184 million, producing an extraordinary profit of £115 million and generating interest of £22 million. Investment income accounted for a large slice of taxable profits of £31.17 million earned last year, compared with £31.8 million, on turnover reduced by £102 million to £342.3 million by the disposal of Sici. Earnings rose from 36.8p a share to 42.2p and a final dividend of 10p a share makes a total of 18p, against 15p.

Cash holdings are no longer so attractive and Nu-Swift has opted for limited investment in property on both sides of the Atlantic, taking advantage of depressed prices. The short-term impact on earnings is difficult to assess, but if profits are maintained, the shares trade on a prospective p/e of 11. At 475p, they are a drift of a 12-month high of 563p and are a speculative buy.

TSB

TRUSTCARD

Reduction of Interest Rate

TSB is pleased to announce that the interest rate for Trustcard is to be reduced from 2.3% to 2.2% per month. Interest at the new rate will first appear on statements dated on or after 1st June 1991 onwards.

The cash advance service charge remains unaltered at 1.5% of the amount taken.

Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is reduced to 29.8% for both purchases and cash advances.

For further information, call into any Branch of the TSB Bank or write to TSB Trustcard Ltd, 1-9 Gloucester Place, Brighton BN1 4BE.

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Tritton trail leads to India

ALAN Tritton, a conqueror of Mount Everest, puts another feather in his cap this week. He joins Princess Alexandra at the Royal Geographical Society tomorrow to launch an appeal on behalf of The Calcutta Tercentenary Trust aimed at preserving India's cultural heritage. "It is an attempt to put Calcutta back on the tourist map," says Tritton, an executive group director of Barclays Bank, and a member of one of the bank's founding families. "We have raised £100,000 towards the restoration of art works and we hope to take it up to £1 million." Tritton led a survey team to the Falkland Islands in 1952 and was a member of an Everest climbing team in 1975. He steps down from the Barclays board at the end of the year, but will remain a consultant, on India, to the bank. His youngest son, Charles, deciding that banking is not for him, works on the

European financial derivatives team at James Capel.

SPARE a thought for British bankers. Douglas Armstrong, who works in corporate communications at the Royal Bank of Scotland, has received a customer complaint addressed to The Culprit, Communications Department.

Marriage bond

NEARLY four years after Richard Peskin signalled a

new era at Great Portland Estates by buying a 50 per cent stake in Bride Hall, Denny Desmond's private development company, the two groups are to become more closely linked. Yesterday's forthcoming marriages column in *The Times* contained the news that Desmond's son, Nigel, is to marry Peskin's eldest daughter, Elizabeth in February. Despite the vagaries of the current property market, the celebrations may well be a prolonged affair as both fathers are formidable party givers. Peskin is the most generous of hosts, while Desmond throws an annual summer ball at his Hertfordshire home that has become the stuff of legend in property circles.

THE European Commission's London office has received complaints that 1992 is not working. The grumbles are not about plans to abolish barriers - they refer to a EC style, the office struck on the idea of promoting the mo-

mentous year by making the last four digits of an extension 1992. But the plan has hit its own barrier; the line is faulty.

Chart topper

ABSENT from the technical analysts' first annual conference in London last week was Barry Frieslander, a keen chartist who has worked for many of Britain's regional brokers. After starting with Ashworth Sons & Barrett at Manchester in 1985, he went on to Blankstone, Singleton, Henry Cooke, Lumsden and Charlton Seal Schaeffer before leaving last year to launch a telephone advisory service based on charts. "I was far too busy to go to the conference," says Frieslander, aged 36, who sends out market commentaries from his home at Hale, Cheshire. "I had been running a daily fax service for clients, and the hotline grew out of that." As for the market, he laments: "It's going to go down." The charts have spoken.

JON ASHWORTH



COATS FINAL BID FOR TOOTAL

STOCK MARKET

Loss on foreign exchange puts Allied under pressure

ALLIED-LYONS:
speculative buying drives shares higher

Share price

FTA all share price index (Retised)

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Source: Standard & Poor's

in the discount rate. The FT index of 30 shares retreated 6.9 to 1,953.7.

The cheaper American money trend saw government securities claw back early fall of EM to finish virtually unchanged.

ADT, the security and caution group headed by

extensive interests in Canada, following the New Court, the stockbroker has a stake of 2 million shares ahead of the month. Shell (Canada) unveiled its bid, reinforcing the City view that Ultramar will fall about £20

Michael Ashcroft, fell 7p to 75p amid reports of heavy American selling of the shares. There was talk that ADT had attempted, and failed, to sell

Christie's International, the fine art auctioneer, Christie's slipped 2p to 224p.

Exam, the mission remains, held steady at 175p. Earlier this week, the South African-backed Oceana Investment Corporation made a tender offer of 185p a share for 18.5 per cent of the company. Oceana already owns 6.6 per cent and is not ruling out the possibility of making a full

ist engineer and clothing group, dropped 20p to 238p after unveiling plans to raise £39 million through a rights issue.

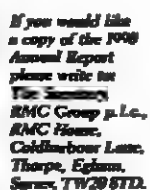
nothing ahead of the deadline about speculation that the call may not be made. An announcement is expected this morning. Southend.

MICHAEL CLARK

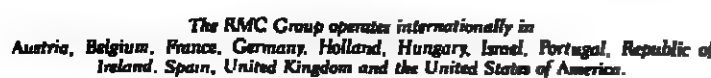
LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

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From the statement by the Chairman, Mr John Camden.



	1990	1989
TURNOVER	£589.3m	£570.7m
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£216.2m	£248.0m
EARNINGS PER SHARE	56.2p	68.5p
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	19.3p	18.0p



By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

The City Research Project, to be spearheaded by the London Business School over the next three years, aims to determine what constitutes a

The City Research Project is lobbying the government to change legislation, where necessary, and help the City respond to new challenges.

Mr Yassukovich said the research was not the result of the City's paranoia about emerging competition. "I

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
April 22	May 3	July 25	August 5

Call options were taken out on: 30/4/91 Atlantic Res, Control Sec, Midland Bank, Oliver Res, Pitconcrift, Pilkington, Premier, Prospect Ind, Tuscar.

Pat: Brent Walker.

Webb & Coles: Tonyine House, Brent Walker

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SOURCES		INVERGORDON (135p)	
Aberdeen Int	57	Lowercase (108p)	84
Alpha Group	5-12	MALTA	8 1/2
Ashdale Resources	37	MU (20p)	24
Aberford Smt (100p)	131	Mileway Capital	22 1/2-1/4
Adams Rice	43	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Arbuthnot Smt (185p)	131	AMEC N/P	8-1
CNNH Group (20p)	106	Ashford N/P	20-22
Dryden Bros CPO	85	Barclays Clerk N/P	20-22
ESM Income Trs	85	Cassidy N/P	16-11
EFM Jeva Trs (20p)	48-1/2	Edman N/P	18-11
East German Trs	48	Forbes N/P	34-1/2
Etics (100p)	14	Hardy Oil & Gas N/P	34
Eurobank	86	Moscow (John) N/P	17-5
Europe Energy	122	Smith (David) N/P	52-1
Franklin Telecom	122	Wilsone N/P	1/2
Headline Book	122		
Highcroft Inv	166		

(Issue price in brackets).

*14 Pages
Of Career
Opportunities*

Plus

Tomorrow

071-481 4481

Shares drift lower

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£4.000

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991			Price		Index	Yr	
Low			Old	Change	Old		P/E
145	101	Q. Western Union	115	125	5.5	4.8	-
146	101	Q. Western Union	226	226	-	-	-
148	108	Hardy D & G	192	195	-2	-	-19.7
149	2	Kraft Energy	26	26	-	-	-
150	147	LASAR	35	352	8	11.3	3.7
151	150	DO Units	175	180	34.5	18.6	-
154	226	Manpower	309	404	-	-	-25.3
176	11	New London	18	16	-	-	-
31	26	Life Savers	27	27	-	-	-13.9
32	26	Life Savers	27	27	-	-	-
46	27	Pennaco	35	40	1.9	6.7	8.8
12	6	Petrol	10	12	-1	-	-
64	68	Printer	51	58	-6	-	-30.4
100	100	Q. Western Union	226	226	-	-	-

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING		TOTAL		TOTAL	
1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
176	175	190	200	8.0	8.2
178	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
179	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
180	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
181	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
182	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
183	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
184	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
185	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
186	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
187	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
188	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
189	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
190	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
191	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
192	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
193	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
194	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
195	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
196	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
197	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
198	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
199	175	200	200	8.0	8.2
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Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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125	Dance	185	24	0.0	1.2	0.4
126	Disappeared	186	4	0.0	1.2	0.4
127	Drugs (A&H)	187	48	1.1	1.2	0.4
128	Drugs (A&H)	188	48	1.1	1.2	0.4
129	Drugs (A&H)	189	48	1.1	1.2	0.4
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179	Drugs (A&H)	239	48	1.1	1.2	0.4
180	Drugs (A&H)	240	48	1.1	1.2	0.4
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TRANSPORT

277	167	Assoc Br Ports	283	257	+4	9.7	3.7	11.8
145	326	BAA	419	423	+1	16.3	3.9	11.3
176	122	Br Airways	188	189	-1n	11.8	7.8	5.7

273	343	California	365	373	-	18.7	4.5	14.2
273	136	Charlotte (H)	202	207	-1	10.7	5.2	10.0
200	95	Deans & Research	130	180	-	-	-	-
584	355	Economical Units	455	470	-1	-	-	-
28	174	Economical Warrants	21	22	-	-	-	-

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After the boom years, the future challenges

Like other local authorities, Hertfordshire is seeing a debate about the future of its administrative and education structure. However, important to the county's future, there are other pressing matters for the region, one of the most favoured areas in Britain in recent years.

Economically, Hertfordshire has been one of the healthiest regions of the southeast during the boom years: quality of life has been its target for decades, highlighted in the pioneering of garden cities such as Letchworth and Welwyn.

In the past few months, however, thousands of jobs have been lost in the county. Everybody hopes this will be a short-term problem, but when, and if, boom conditions return, another set of problems will arise.

The local authority review, promised by the government to reflect local needs, could see Hertfordshire county council, the county's largest single employer, facing the future as a unitary authority at the expense of, at least, some of the area's ten district councils.

The county, administered from Hertford, does not have a decisively big city dominating it. However, it seems certain that there will be strong cases for independence put up by two distinct and powerful centres — Watford, the most populous, with an extensive industrial and retailing base, and St Albans. The latter, a cathedral city with a history stretching back to Roman times, is in demand as a base for big companies: Irish Life, the insurance group which recently moved its headquarters there, is a typical transplant.

Other changes in Hertfordshire are a result of the "peace dividend", as defence-related industries in the county absorb the effect of armament cutbacks. The British Aerospace (BAe) missile production plant at Stevenage has been hit by this. So has the Rolls-Royce helicopter engines plant at Leavesden. At Croxley Green, General Electric's Marconi division is closing its facility for research and design of underwater defence systems.

These cutbacks will cost more than 1,000 jobs. Another 1,400 are to disappear at BAe's Hatfield plant, home of the 146 jet aircraft, sales of which have been affected by both the world recession and currency imbalances. The cutback reflects rationalisation among BAe's many plants, one result of which is that assembly of the 146 is to be transferred to

The recession and the 'peace dividend' have hit hard but the county is fighting back,

Derek Harris writes in this special report

Woodford, Cheshire. Another 250 jobs have been lost at the BAe space and communications operation, also at Stevenage.

There has been job-trimming among the many pharmaceutical companies, which were drawn to the county by its proximity to London and to key centres of learning and research at Oxford and Cambridge. This has arisen largely because of the international dimension to decisions of these companies. However, the

economic activity picks up again nationwide?

Unemployment in the county, negligible at one time, has been creeping up since the end of 1989 and in March stood at 4.8 per cent for adults, compared with 4.1 per cent the previous month. The BAe job losses, particularly, have still to show through in the unemployment rates, and areas such as Hatfield will see soaring figures for a while.

Paul Turner, the chairman of

The swing will continue towards the development of services, rather than manufacturing

Welwyn Hatfield council planning committee and chairman of Airlinc (the Aerospace Industry Regional and Local Authority), believes that for every five jobs going at the BAe Hatfield plant another four will be lost in outside companies.

New shopping centres in the county, conceived in the boom years, are struggling to rent all their units. Land prices have dropped. Industrial land, worth £750,000 an acre last October, is now reported to be about £500,000. The drop for office land is from £1 million to £750,000, and that for residential use from £1 million to about £500,000. The further north in the county, the lower the prices. To some extent the cooling has brought relief to those with

years, are struggling to rent all their units. Land prices have dropped. Industrial land, worth £750,000 an acre last October, is now reported to be about £500,000. The drop for office land is from £1 million to £750,000, and that for residential use from £1 million to about £500,000. The further north in the county, the lower the prices. To some extent the cooling has brought relief to those with

a hand in the county's economic management, notably the county council and others such as the district councils and the new Hertfordshire Training and Enterprise Council (Tec). The easing could well be only temporary, however, particularly in the south where the M25 arcs through the county, attracting warehousing, retailing and other industrial users. The county is well served for transport. The M1 and the A1 (most of the latter at motorway standard) run through Hertfordshire. There are two mainline rail links, and Luton airport and the fast developing Stansted airport are just over the county borders.

A study of Hertfordshire's economic prospects by the local economic research unit at Hatfield polytechnic accepts that the county has short-term problems as it loses jobs at a faster rate than the national average. The forecast is that the swing will continue towards development of the services sector, rather than manufacturing.

David Kraithman, one of the two co-directors of the research unit, says: "There will be a big increase in employment needs throughout this decade. The effects of the European single market in 1992 will mean development of business services, although we do not expect much additional effect to flow from the opening of the Channel tunnel."

He and Dr Al Rainnie, his co-director, are worried that many of the jobs being lost represent highly skilled labour, which could be siphoned off elsewhere, thus representing a loss to the county's skills pool. Problems such as skill shortages, now being tackled by the new training and enterprise council, led by Chris Wright, raise the spectre of big companies decamping to other areas.

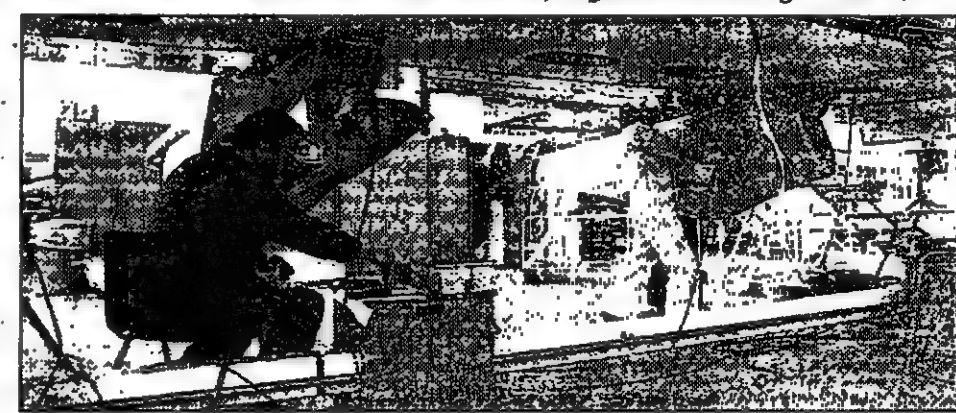
For the moment, however, there have been some offsets to the jobs cutbacks as companies still opt for Hertfordshire's green and pleasant environment: among them, recently, have been BP, with its new corporate headquarters at Hemel Hempstead and Canada Life at Potters Bar. Many other expanding businesses also have their headquarters in Hertfordshire, for example, Tesco, one of the Britain's two largest supermarket chains.



Lost skills: assembly of the BAe 146 — nose above, wings below — is moving to Cheshire



Dr Al Rainnie and David Kraithman, economic researchers at Hatfield



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Hertfordshire's Training and Enterprise Council was one of the first to 'go live' in April 1990.

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113 entries submitted for the 1990 Hertfordshire Business Awards. Prestigious multinationals, small businesses, schools and colleges jostle for position to prove that innovation, training and enterprise breeds success in this brand new award scheme.

3,395 young people commence structured vocational training. As the change from Youth Training to Training Credits takes place Hertfordshire TEC is already providing school-leavers with training that leads to vocational qualifications — and a full-time career.

2,319 adults receive quality training and guidance. With the accent on vocational qualifications and employment opportunities, quality adult training raises the skill levels of unemployed adults and provides substantial support for those with special needs.

500 people return to work and help bridge the skills gap. The largest scheme of its kind in the country, Back to Work attracted overwhelming response 6 times larger than places available. Plans for 1991/2 aim to bridge the demand gap.

8,000 training opportunities become more accessible. Watford Central Library played host to the first Training Access Point (TAP) which allows individuals or businesses free and instant access to training opportunities. Other Training Access Points are already coming on stream.

The county's future prosperity depends upon its education, training and enterprise. Whether you are an employer, employee, school leaver or currently unemployed — you have a vital part in the TEC's programme for the coming year.

Hertfordshire Training and Enterprise Council, FREEPOST, New Barnes Mill, Cottonmill Lane, Sopwell, St Albans, Herts AL1 2BR Business Information Freephone — 0800 919 000

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County hall fights to retain its power

When the first rumblings of the government's proposed changes in the structure of local government started, work was already going on at county hall in Hertford on radical changes in the way Hertfordshire county council operates.

A detailed review of the council's culture and style — "the way we do things" — had been completed. The agenda for the process of change, built round the corporate principles of the business world, was established.

The review was at the instigation of the doughty leader of the Conservative-controlled council, Mrs Iris Tarry, who grew up in the St Albans area and lives in Harpenden.

Mrs Tarry bristled when rumours were circulating that county councils were to be axed in one fell swoop. That did not happen. Instead, consultation was promised in the course of the Local Government Commission's review of structure.

"We are going to put up a fight for survival and I think we have a very strong case," says Mrs Tarry, a 58-year-old former music teacher and lifelong Tory. "I think the government could do worse than to look at what Hertfordshire has done."

"Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is talking about reviews of internal management. We have already completed that, and all the preparatory work. We have dissolved most of our sub-committees and cut through piles of paper."

Mrs Tarry says there must be clearly identified benefits for the electorate as an integral part of any change in structure.

The county council's new chief executive, 45-year-old Brian Briscoe, says that as a

Proposed changes in local government structure are causing much concern, but the county council aims to carry on



"Waste of energy": Brian Briscoe, chief executive



"Very strong case": Iris Tarry, the council leader

ready does 85 per cent of local government business in Hertfordshire, and it doesn't seem sensible to move from that situation to small unitary authorities," he says.

Hertfordshire is comprised of small towns, villages and countryside, Mr Briscoe points out. It has no big cities; no Bristol, Nottingham or Leicester.

Poly that wants to be a university

HATFIELD polytechnic, which now has 8,000 students, still aims to become a university. After failing to merge with Middlesex polytechnic, Hatfield is seeking a three-way merger with Bedford and Luton colleges of higher education.

Largely thanks to the high profile of Polyfield Training, one of several limited companies set up to market skills and services, Hatfield has been selected as a Pickup Europe centre, charged with encouraging higher and further education colleges to

provide training for Europe. Polyfield Training, which aims to put Hatfield's industry-linked training programme on a commercial footing, structured courses for 5,000 students during its first year.

Hatfield, which also prides itself on being an innovator, is offering a course on disaster management, believed to be Britain's first. Another new course is a BA Honours/BA Travel and Tourism, which combines the subject with a broad business education.

the things that had always worried him about local government was that too much energy was directed into arguing about the constitutional framework.

He says: "Our job is to see that the people of Hertfordshire get the best possible deal out of public services; that the places they live in are valued and serviced and properly looked after."

Mrs Heather Du Quesnay, the newly appointed chief education officer, echoes Mr Briscoe's concern about the time and energy poured into looking at administrative structures. The mother of two young children, she says that local education authorities should be concentrating on the national curriculum and the quality of learning in schools and colleges.

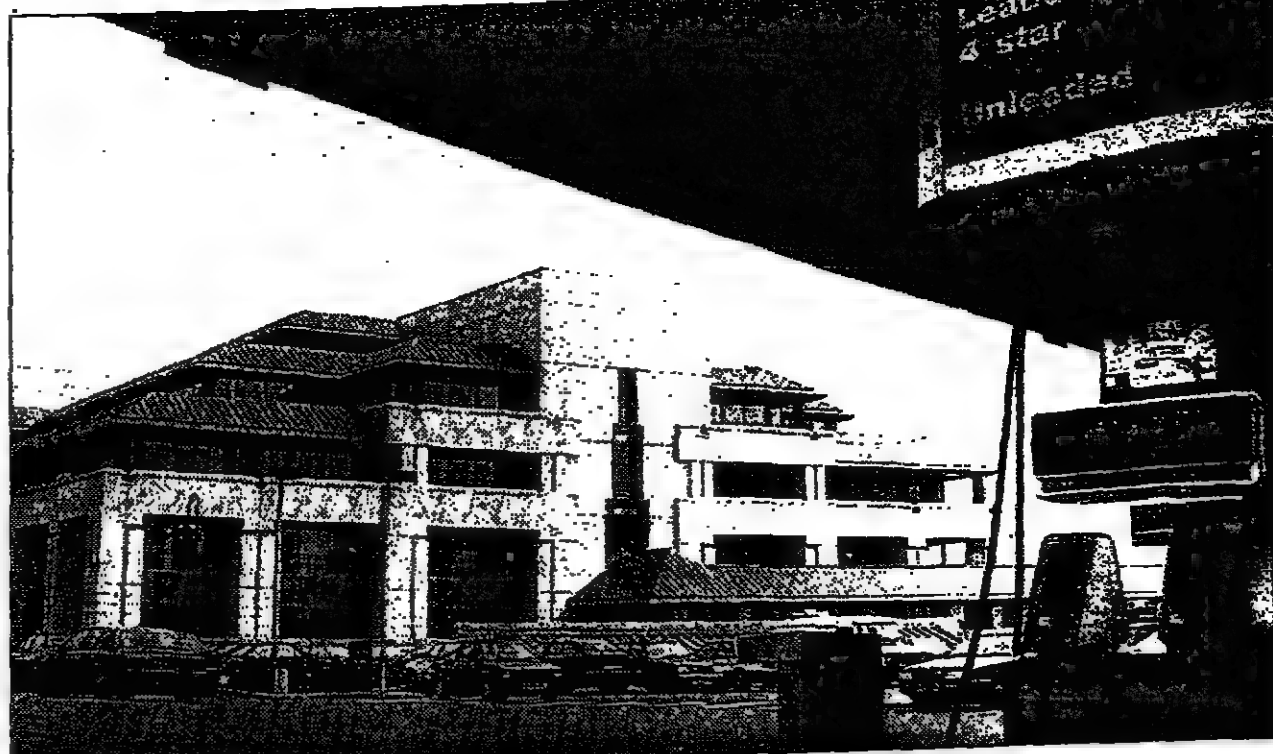
The decision to re-organise further education colleges from the control of local education authorities was worrying, Mrs Du Quesnay says.

"When colleges are to be run by a national council, while sixth forms remain in the control of local education authorities, I do not really see that is helping to increase staying-on rates or to improve standards."

Education had been shaken from top to bottom in recent years and the time had come for a period of consolidation. She was sorry that Hertfordshire, which had no sixth form colleges, and where the bulk of A-level courses were run in schools, would lose its newly merged further education colleges. However, these accounted for only £43 million out of an education budget of £330 million, and so were a relatively small proportion.

What had attracted her to the Hertfordshire post was the chance to be involved in a period of change at county hall which would result in an even better quality of service.

"Everybody knows that Hertfordshire has a reputation of national standing. That is what we must build on," Mrs Du Quesnay says.



British flag ship: BP, which has headquarters at Hemel Hempstead, is one of many big companies in the county

A new spirit of enterprise

The county council is breathing new life into the old industrial areas

Watford is the Croxley Green centre, which is backed by the Standard Life insurance company. The development covers 90 acres and is now nearing its final construction phase. Lettings have gone to a variety of users, including the pharmaceuticals maker Hoffman La Roche, the electronics company Thorn EMI, and, in financial services, Standard

Life, Allied Dunbar and TSB. The Croxley Green centre recently won a business environment award given by the county council. Another award went to The Willows in Mark Road, Hemel Hempstead, a development by Speyhawk and the Crown Commissioners.

Hemel Hempstead, which is in the west of Hertfordshire

and close to the M1 and M25, has the county's biggest industrial zone, now undergoing widespread redevelopment, and is taking a lead in high technology.

Companies established there include Kodak, Lucas Aerospace, Atlas Copco, Sweden's compressed-air equipment makers, and BICC, which makes cables.

One of the town's oldest-established companies is McDonnell Douglas Information Systems, part of the American McDonnell Douglas Corporation. The company employs 800 people in the town in the manufacture of computers and has invested more than £30 million in Hertfordshire in the past five years, including a £7.5 million headquarters building.

Another high technology industrial area is planned at Broxbourne on the eastern side of the county. There is another traditional industrial area at Ryehouse, near Broxbourne, which could be a candidate for upgrading.

The county has a strong research and development tradition, represented at the Rothamsted agricultural experimental station in Harpenden, and the Building Research Establishment at Garston, Watford.

Name	Area	Developer
Leitchworth	55 acres	Leitchworth Garden City Corporation/Bride Hall Group
City Park, Welwyn Garden City	90 acres	Agent: Mount Barn
Croxley Centre, Watford	90 acres	Standard Life
St Albans Park, Welwyn Garden City	61 acres	Allied Dunbar/Huntingdale
Watford Business Park	22 acres	Carroll Group/Watford Council
Alban Park, St Albans	20 acres	Trafalgar House
Home Park, Kings Langley	125,000 sq ft	Speyhawk/Hambro Life
The Willows, Hemel Hempstead	50,000 sq ft	Speyhawk/Crown Commissioners
Corner Hall, Hemel Hempstead	15 acres	Quattro Properties/Hill Samuel Insurance
Dootie Meadows, Kings Langley	83,770 sq ft	Sun Alliance
Elstree Way, Borehamwood	25 acres	Leasing Properties
Foxholes Park, Hertford		Tarmac

Reality grips property market

There are bargains galore because the value of homes has fallen by a quarter

Since the property market peaked in 1988, house prices in Hertfordshire have dropped on average by at least 20 per cent. The fall may be 30 per cent for less attractive properties. Prospective purchasers, therefore, have the bargaining power and can gain discounts on asking prices.

A mood of realism is taking hold, according to the estate agents. Vendors may insist on properties being advertised at a higher price than they have been advised but most realise they will have to accept at least 10 per cent less.

In common with other southeast counties popular with commuters, Hertfordshire experienced some of the biggest increases in house prices before the bubble burst.

Purchases were completed quickly and property changed hands fast. One reason was that people saw property as a means of making profit, not merely as a place to live.

"Now there has been a change of attitude. People are looking to buy a house to live in," says a spokesman for Cornerstone Abbey National, the estate agent. "Prices for the most part have come down to realistic levels, although there is still a difference between what people are willing to buy at and what people are willing to sell at. As these two figures converge, that is when you will find

increased activity." A survey by Cornerstone last month showed Watford prices averaging £155,000 for a four-bedroom, semi-detached house and £74,000 for a two-bedroom flat.

St Albans became an even more popular place to live with the opening of the M25 and the electrification of the Bedford to St Pancras line. Prices still fell in line with the movement in the general market in the southeast, although even small properties in the conservation area around St Albans Abbey can command exceptional prices.

Three-bedroom houses sell

for £80,000 and upwards, but a three-bedroom, pre-second world war house in a up-market area, such as the Abbey precincts, could fetch between £150,000 and £200,000. Four-bedroom houses in good residential areas start at £190,000, and five-bedroom houses from £250,000. Outside the big towns, in the green belt, large houses with land are priced at about £750,000. Offers of more than £600,000 are being sought by Chancellors, the estate agency, for a farmhouse with land at Markyate.

Prices in Hertfordshire become lower the further a property is from London and Heathrow. The development of Stansted airport, just beyond the county's northeast border, may change this.



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Training targets

CHRIS Wright, the managing director of Hertfordshire Training and Enterprise Council (Tec), has identified four main aims.

They are to transform business attitudes in order to encourage more training; to develop employment skills; to maximise the use of labour resources; and to promote business development.

Mr Wright also wants to underpin the activities of small businesses by providing more services for them.

A "business lifeline" service has been launched to help smaller firms with specialist counselling in the first two to five years of their operations.

Evaluating the new service will be Professor Paul Burns, the head of the small businesses unit at Cranfield college, Bedfordshire.

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Forest of fun scheme to keep country green

A new community forest planned on the edge of London could be a means of combining land improvement in Hertfordshire with leisure development.

Almost half of Hertfordshire's land is in the green belt and the county is unique in having a Countryside Management Service operating in all ten district council areas.

The forest project is seen as a means of beautifying eyesores in the south of the county, where environmental damage has been caused by the M25 and gravel pit workings, and at the same time making land commercially suitable for leisure schemes.

Richard Brown, the county's countryside officer, says: "We have grasped an opportunity to put a politically acceptable and nationally recognised label on part of the county in which we have always thought

Thousands of acres of woodland from Watford to Potters Bar are planned to improve the land and promote leisure

we needed to take big action."

The community forest will cover about 12,350 acres, stretching from the M1 west of Watford to the A10 beyond Potters Bar in the east of the county. The project will involve planting 3,700 acres with broad-leaf trees.

A timetable for action is now emerging and a director is due to be appointed to run the first five-year development phase, in which 500 to 750 acres of the new woodland will be created.

The running costs will be about £120,000 a year, half of which will be paid with grant aid from the Countryside Commission. The basic funding is seen as a seedcorn

operation. Mr Brown says the main cost will have to be met by outside investment from both public and private sources.

Farmers, landowners and the Forestry Commission, for example, will be asked to invest in trees. "By year ten we think we might have seen something like 500 to 750 acres every year of new woodland - oak, ash, maple and cherry - planted, wholly financed by new development of leisure."

The wooded landscape should make it possible to promote leisure schemes, he says.

In The Netherlands, boating lakes, equestrian centres and

other leisure facilities have been sited successfully in woodland. Placing more noisy sports such as motorcross in Hertfordshire is difficult, so the use of dry gravel pits will be explored. Walking and riding circuits in well wooded landscapes are also envisaged.

The prospect of a community forest has already inspired district councils to think more seriously about tree-planting, Mr Brown says.

The community forest director will work alongside the Countryside Management Service in partnership with the London borough of Barnet and others.

The Countryside Management Service, founded in 1974, works in Hertfordshire and north London to help the area to absorb visitors without antagonising landowners. The service gives help and advice and responds quickly to needs by cutting red tape.

Officials of the service discuss problems with the people who are directly involved and they work closely with residents, parish councils, landowners and groups using the countryside.

Only modest working budgets are used to start projects. Many man hours, given by full-time conservationists and volunteers, have helped to enhance the landscape and ecological heritage and promote interest in the countryside.

The service was highly commended in the Ford European Conservation Awards 1990 and won backing for three large projects - Wildwood, Thetford Heath and St Albans Railway Paths.

For 1991 and beyond, the service has redefined its aims so that it can play a leading part in the development and implementation of the Hertfordshire Countryside Strategy.

The service wants to generate income by courting new partners in the public and private sectors and will also continue to try to meet the recreational and ecological aspirations of the local communities.



Everything for shoppers: the Galleria complex offers quality stores, eight restaurants and a nine-screen cinema

Blazing the tourism trail

Now that Hertfordshire is fast becoming a tourist attraction, it is focusing its attentions on leisure facilities. The county's attractions are being promoted with the slogan, "Herts (illustrated with hearts), England's Best Kept Secret".

When the Thames and Chilterns Tourist Board first canvassed the county for financial support, it had a lukewarm reception. Now, however, the district and borough councils of St Albans, Hertsmere, Watford, Welwyn, Hatfield, Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, Dacorum and Stevenage, as well as the county council, accept that tourism is a big money-spinner.

In 1989, overnight UK visitors to the county brought in £53 million, while overseas overnight visitors injected another £50 million, according to statistics compiled by the regional tourist board. Returns show tourist spending has risen from £270 million in 1982 to £636 million in 1989.

Councils helped to fund the Hertfordshire Leisure Marketing Initiative launched in 1987, as a result of which the county won a highly commended award from the English Tourist Board last year. Promotional material in-

Hertfordshire, promoted as "England's Best Kept Secret", is working hard to build a stronger tourist industry

cludes a visitors' guide and leaflets illustrating the county's wealth of attractions and contrasts. A guide to conference facilities features venues to suit all pockets, from pubs to manor houses.

A "what to do and where to go" guide lists a comprehensive range of museums, panoramic walks, historic houses and exquisite gardens. A Herts Waterways guide, listing the lakes, canals, reservoirs and rivers where water sports and other leisure interests can be pursued, has been produced with the help of the National Rivers Authority.

Themes for weekend breaks combine these assets with Hertfordshire's literary links. These include Geoffrey Chaucer, Francis Bacon, William Cowper, Charles Lamb, Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope, George Bernard Shaw, H.G. Wells, George Orwell and Graham Greene.

Shopping is acknowledged as an important leisure activity. Hertfordshire offers established street markets alongside

state-of-the-art malls. The Galleria, due to open this autumn, is constructed above the A1(M) at Hatfield and is modelled on American gallery developments such as those in Houston and Dallas, in Texas.

The £150 million development, which is claimed to be 85 per cent let, will have quality shops, but not on the department store scale. There will be eight restaurants, a drive-in McDonald's fast-food outlet, and a nine-screen cinema.

Street theatre, music and ice skating will provide a lively atmosphere, and a crèche is also planned so that parents can relax while shopping or having a meal.

Several new shopping centres have sprung up. Not far from the Galleria is the newly opened Howard Centre in Welwyn Garden City, which is under 60 per cent let so far. The centre was intended to complement the character of the garden city, with the use of

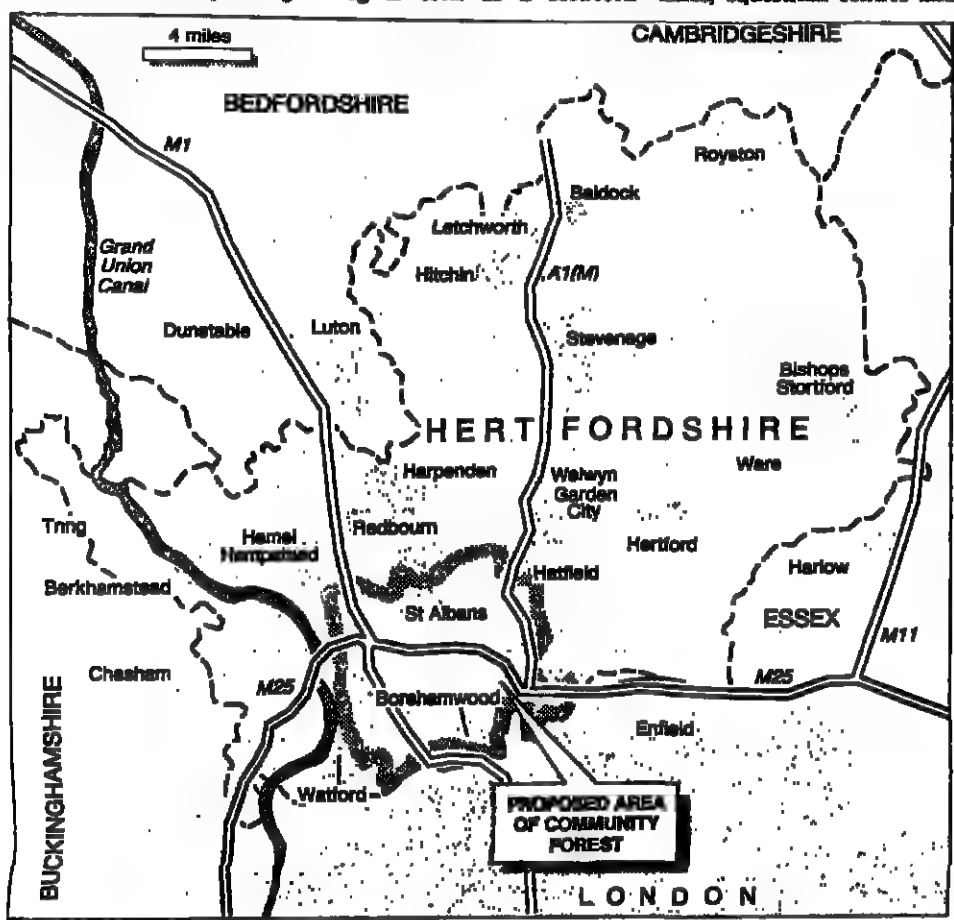
fountains, trees and pillars. Since it opened there has been an increase of about 60 per cent in the use of Welwyn Garden City's car parks, representing more than 10,000 extra cars weekly.

The first phase of Watford's Harlequin Centre, which at 750,000 sq ft is believed to be the largest in-town shopping centre under construction in Britain, has been welcomed by shoppers. The Marlowes centre in Hemel Hempstead has had similar approval. Both opened last year.

Traditional shopping centres are having to improve to compete with complexes in Milton Keynes and Brent Cross, to which there are good rail and road links from London.

In the cathedral city of St Albans there was a long wrangle over the Chequer Street redevelopment before The Maltings "open" shopping centre was chosen by the public in preference to a closed mall.

Roman St Albans, the home of the Royal National Rose Society, takes pride in being the county's jewel in the crown. However, many other villages and towns can lay a claim to fame and are finding a place on the tourism trail.



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Fluent spoken and written English and Spanish are essential and additionally French or Portuguese would be useful. Knowledge of database systems would be an advantage. If you are interested and would like to know more, please send a detailed CV to Bobbie O'Neill, Personnel Officer, Help the Aged, St. James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE. Fax: 071 253 0385. Closing date for applications 10th May 1991. No agencies. An equal opportunities employer. No smoking offices.

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Nest builders are back

As mortgage rates fall, first-time buyers are stimulating the market, reports

Christopher Warman

As cuckoos are a herald of spring and swallows usher in the summer, so keen-eyed observers are watching for first-time buyers to signal the recovery of the housing market.

The omens are propitious, for from vantage points throughout the south of England estate agents and housebuilders are reporting their arrival in steadily increasing numbers.

Barnard Marcus, which has estate agents' offices in and around London, says that in the latest quarter about 40 per cent of its prospective buyers were new first-time buyers, a level not achieved for two years, and they have helped to increase sales by 30 per cent.

The Halifax Building Society reports that buyers looking for their first home are taking the opportunity to pick up bargains. Growing demand is shown by an increase in prices paid by first-time buyers in March (up by 1.4 per cent), after falls in January and February.

A Halifax office in East Grinstead, west Sussex, said in a recent Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' survey that first-time buyers were more active,



First-time homes: Hunting Gate scheme at Letchworth, Herts

boosting the lower end of the market with a knock-on effect.

Jeremy Stanley-Smith, of Fox & Sons in Lymington, Hampshire, has noticed an increase both in the number of first-time buyers and in their street-wise attitudes.

"They are aware of the market, and they have been waiting until they feel confident that now is the time to buy. They are in a position to negotiate and drive a good bargain, and they have the advantage of very good offers from building societies, such as fixed rate loans."

He says that prices have come down by about 20 per cent in the last year, and that buyers are ignoring property that has been on the market for some time, concentrating instead on newly marketed homes with the correct 1991 price.

This view is endorsed by Neil McCintock, of the West Country agent Gribble Booth & Taylor, who says that the company was seeing a 40 per cent increase in

sales in the March/April period, compared with January and February. If movement continues at the present rate, sales will show an increase of 76 per cent over the same period in 1989 and of 50 per cent compared with the first six months of 1990.

Further west, in Camborne, Cornwall, Andrew Gaudry, of Key Estates, says that falling prices for more than two years, coupled with the drop in interest rates and the optimism that they will continue to go down, has given a new impetus to the market. The many preferential lending schemes offered by banks and building societies is increasing this optimism.

Colin Andrews, of the estate agent Jefferys of Liskeard, says that there are still too many people chasing mortgages up to 100 per cent and that the reluctance of many lenders to offer the maximum amount is a difficulty for some first-time buyers. He notes too that repossession properties,

many of which are low priced partly because they have fallen into disrepair, are being sought by first-time buyers who wish to take advantage of bargain prices.

Nigel Davies, marketing director of Crest Homes, says that its £250 "move in" and "easy step" schemes represent the sort of help that housebuilders are giving to buyers to try to stimulate the new homes market.

Under the £250 scheme, as long as the purchasers can afford the mortgage, all they have to provide is £250. The remainder of the moving in costs — such as the mortgage valuation, solicitors' fees and mortgage indemnity fee — are paid for by the builders. The easy step home purchase plan allows buyers to start off paying only 70 per cent of the normal mortgage cost, increasing their repayments in up to three stages over the next five years.

Most builders and developers are offering some form of inducement or discount on their homes. Baratz Southern is offering part exchange, a 10 per cent mortgage until January 1993 (on the first £40,000), carpets and other fittings, decorations, kitchen appliances and landscaped gardens, with prices starting at under £40,000.

Hunting Gate Homes, based in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, is offering to pay the mortgages of purchasers for the first year at several sites in the south. To qualify, the buyers must exchange contracts within six weeks, and payments are made direct to the purchaser's building society or bank net of any endowment insurance premium.



Billiards, tennis or riding?

Underriver House (above) at Underriver, Sevenoaks, Kent, is a fine example of a Queen Anne house, relatively rare in and around London.

The Grade II listed early 18th century house is built of local stone, and has boundary walls and outbuildings dating from the 18th century, while the house has Victorian extensions and a lodge built at the same time.

The house has a reception hall, three reception rooms and a billiard room, four bedrooms and four further bedrooms, and the two bedroomed lodge house stands in its own private garden. Underriver House

stands in 11 acres, including a tennis court, paddock and pond, and Hamptons' Sevenoaks office gives a guide price of £1.4 million.

A former school on the Sandringham Estate, where Queen Mary used to visit the headmistress, is for sale. Overlooking the village green in the conservation village of Sharnborne and in the shadow of the parish church, the Old School House is a Victorian building converted into a house in 1982. The house has three bedrooms, and an

asking price of £250,000 through Jackson-Stops & Staff's Newmarket office.

Oak Lodge, in Wickstead Park, Kettering, Northamptonshire, is one of only three houses to be built in the 400 acre park.

The newly built house is an impressive detached building with a pillared porch, reception hall and two reception rooms, a master bedroom suite and three further bedrooms. It has carpets and curtains fitted by the would-be purchaser who subsequently pulled out, and the house has been reduced in price to £175,000. Details: 0636 726252.

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THE TIMES

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River God ready to launch Ascot double for Cauthen

STEVE Cauthen has an outstanding chance of landing a double at Ascot today on River God (2.30) and Perpendicular (3.05).

River God is expected to win the Insulpak Sagaro EBF Stakes even though he has not raced since last September, unlike Indian Queen, Parting Moment, Double Dutch and Shambo, who have all looked in good heart already this spring.

River God is trained by Henry Cecil, whose horses seldom fall through lack of fitness. He has been given a particularly thorough preparation in readiness for today's race in which he will also be tested by Teamstar, winner of the corresponding race 12 months ago, and Lucky Moon, last year's Goodwood Cup winner.

It was over today's course and distance last June that River God put up one of his best performances in the Queen's Vase, winning by six lengths from Parting Moment, who went on to land the

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Italian St Leger but cannot be fancied to make revenge on the same terms. While Indian Queen undoubtedly did well to dead-beat with Brashies in the French St Leger, I feel that River God's third behind Saurage and Hellenic in our St Leger was the better form.

Shambo and Double Dutch, the principal participants in that memorable finish to the Queen's Prize at Kempton, reappear with the weights favouring Double Dutch to the tune of 10lb. Shambo has won again at Newbury in the meantime but both are stepping up in class here.

Perpendicular, my selection for the White Rose Stakes, advertised his claims on Newmarket Heath last Saturday when he galloped in encouraging style with Peter Davies and Hip To Time.

The only time that

Perpendicular has been seen in public was at Doncaster last November, when he won his maiden by making all the running over seven furlongs.

Being by Shirley Heights out of a half-sister to Kris and Diesel, he will be better suited by today's trip and I fancy him to outstay Regal Sabre, who appeared not to get home over a shorter distance at Newmarket last time.

Gulf Sailor, Hellenic's younger brother, should not be discounted, even though he finished only fifth behind



Cecil has given River God thorough preparation

Wakshan first time out.

Quite apart from his 13 rivals, the task now facing the three-year-old Scottish Castle when he contests the Insulpak Victoria Cup is the statistic that no member of his age group has won the race since Top Gallant in 1923 at the now defunct Hurst Park.

However, I will not be remotely surprised to see Scottish Castle put his elders in their place, having watched him brush some useful members of his own age group aside over today's trip at Newmarket last month.

He is preferred now to Nicholas, who twice ran well at the same meeting when third in the Abernethy Stakes and when winning a handicap two days later.

The Insulpak Graduation

Stakes, the second race within a week to be monopolised by the Maktoum family from Dubai, can go to Zenda, who finished a creditable fifth in the Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket last autumn after winning well at Newbury.

Teaplanter to make amends

TEAPLANTER has the chance to stone for his fall in the Christmas Foxhunters' Cup when he returns to Cheltenham this evening for the Rover Cars Champion Hunter Chase (Brian Beel writes).

He could be fully to oppose him but his tendency to brush through fences will give his supporters anxious moments until he clears the last.

Both divisions of the Bramley Novices' Hunter Chase look good. A 13-year-old is not my idea of a sound selection for a maiden but the form of Paddy's Pond looks as good as any for the first leg while the horse that finished half a length in front of him at Stratford, Fibreglass Tech, could win the second division from Saybright.

My Mellow Man will be suited by the easing of the going and should win the United Hunt Cup. Yesterday's rain, however, may count against the course specialist, Polar Glen, in the Harvest Hunter Chase over four miles. Ross And Slick, a stranger to this course and without a penalty, is therefore preferred.

John Sam will be difficult to back in the Vale of Evesham, while True Bloom, last year's winner of the Overbury, can stage a repeat.

Sirisat qualifies at Quorn

By BRIAN BEEL

SIRISAT, the maiden winner at Dingley three weeks ago and the unfortunate loser on a judging error at the Oakley, qualified for the Times Championship final with a well-deserved success at the Quorn point-to-point on Saturday.

Northern Walk was narrowly preferred in the market to Sirisat but when Laurie Kirky mounted a challenge on the favourite two miles, Sirisat, owned, trained and ridden by Kerry Hollowell, found reserves to win by four lengths.

The favourites were also beaten in both opens with Neltama (Andrew Sansome) getting the better of Dromin Joler in the men's race and Shedd (Lisa Rowe) taking advantage of a mistake at the last by Perroquet to win the RMC Qualifier.

The organisation at the Llangollen left much to be

desired with the chalked names on a blackboard bearing little resemblance to the actual riders and the winning post falling over between races.

The most experienced rider on the circuit, John Llewellyn, was made to look an April fool by events before and after the adjacent. On the way to the start, he was called back to weigh out again without a 10lb penalty on Radio Cue. The extra weight was removed and he duly won the race but was then disqualified for not carrying the penalty.

Backers of Radio Cue were entitled to feel doubly disgruntled as local stewards are not empowered to disqualify if there is no disparity between weighing out and weighing in.

Fip Nash was unseated at the meeting on Andrea May in the maiden and sustained torn ligaments which are expected to

keep her out of action for a week. Her blank day allowed Alison Dare to go one ahead again in the ladies' championship after wins at the Berkeley on Mendip Express and Grademount.

At the Tiverton, Philip Schotfield was well satisfied with his win in the open on Ballyden as he beat his rival, Justin Farthing on Connate to take a lead of one in the men's title race.

With For A Lark waiting for today's rearranged fixture at Ottery St Mary, Fort Hall went ahead in the Daily Telegraph trophy by winning at the Fitzwilliam. Flying Ace was again successful, beating Mossy Moore at the Mile, and Sandstone Arch had another comfortable win in the adjacent at the Sir W W Wynns.

TODAY'S POINT-TO-POINT: Mid Devon, Ottery St Mary, 1m SW of town 5.00.

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	MICHAEL SEELY
2.00 Zonda.	2.00 Zonda.	2.30 River God.
2.30 RIVER GOD (nap).	2.30 Indian Queen.	3.40 SCOTTISH CASTLE (nap).
3.05 Perpendicular.	3.05 REGAL SABRE (nap).	4.40 Army Of Stars.
3.40 Scottish Castle.	4.10 Nicholas.	
4.10 Jay Knight.	4.10 Castle Cloud.	
4.40 Army Of Stars.	4.40 Bardis.	

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Umnyatse. 3.05 Perpendicular. 4.40 ARMY OF STARS (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top riding: 2.30 RIVER GOD.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: 5F-1M STRAIGHT, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 INSULPAK STAKES (3-Y-O Bred; £8,500; 1m) (4 runners)
101 (4) 1 UMNYATSE 11 (6) (Grandan Al Midhurst) 8 Henry 8-8 W Carson 57
102 (4) 2 ZONDA 11 (6) (Graham Al Midhurst) 8 Henry 8-8 W Carson 57
103 (4) 3 SHAVANA 11 (6) (Al Midhurst) 8 Henry 8-8 W Carson 57
104 (4) 4 WILFAY 11 (6) (Al Midhurst) 8 Henry 8-8 W Carson 57
BETTING: 5-4 Umnyatse, 5-2 Zonda, 5-1 Shavane, 5-1 Wilfay.
1990: RIVER GOD 9-11 T Quinn (7-2) P Cole 5 m

FORM FOCUS

UMNYATSE always thrives when comfortably leading. ZONDA 2nd at Newbury (7), good. ZONDA 4th at Newbury (7), good. SHAVANA 2nd at Newbury (7), good. WILFAY 2nd at Newbury (7), good. SHAVANA 2nd at Newbury (7), good.

2.30 INSULPAK SAGARO EBF STAKES (Group II; £26,045; 2m 45yd) (7 runners)
201 (3) 1 INDIAN QUEEN 26 (6,5) (V.C.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
202 (3) 2 PARTING MOMENT 27 (5,5) (C.D.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
203 (3) 3 LUCKY MOON 28 (5,5) (C.D.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
204 (3) 4 DOUBLE DUTCH 29 (5,5) (C.D.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
205 (3) 5 RIVER GOD 30 (5,5) (C.D.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
206 (3) 6 SHAMBO 31 (5,5) (C.D.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
BETTING: 5-1 River God, 5-2 Zonda, 5-1 Shavane, 5-1 Wilfay, 5-1 Shavane, 5-1 Wilfay.
1990: TEANSTAR 4-48 Parting Moment (7-2) M Stoute 7 m

FORM FOCUS

INDIAN QUEEN 2nd to Noble Patrick in the last race at Newbury (7), good. PARTING MOMENT 2nd to Noble Patrick in the last race at Newbury (7), good. LUCKY MOON 2nd to Noble Patrick in the last race at Newbury (7), good. DOUBLE DUTCH 2nd to Noble Patrick in the last race at Newbury (7), good. RIVER GOD 2nd to Noble Patrick in the last race at Newbury (7), good.

3.05 WHITE ROSE STAKES (3-Y-O; £10,572; 1m 2f) (5 runners)
301 (1) 1 MONTAG 37 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
302 (1) 2 PERPENDICULAR 38 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
303 (1) 3 REGAL SABRE 39 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
304 (1) 4 GULF SAILOR 40 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
305 (1) 5 NORTHERN TRIAL 41 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
BETTING: 5-4 Perpendicular, 5-1 Gulf Sailor, 5-1 Regal Sabre, 5-1 Montague, 5-1 Northern Trial.
1990: STAFFORD 9-4 T Quinn (10-1) M Johnston 5 m

FORM FOCUS

MONTAG 2nd to Noble Patrick in the last race at Newbury (7), good. PERPENDICULAR 2nd to Noble Patrick in the last race at Newbury (7), good. REGAL SABRE 2nd to Noble Patrick in the last race at Newbury (7), good. GULF SAILOR 2nd to Noble Patrick in the last race at Newbury (7), good. NORTHERN TRIAL 2nd to Noble Patrick in the last race at Newbury (7), good.

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	BRIAN BEEL
2.15 Lorna's Choice.	2.15 Zonda's Slave.	4.25 Mystic Music.
2.45 Lorna's Choice.	2.45 Lorna's Choice.	
3.20 River House.	3.20 River House.	
3.55 Mystic Music.	3.55 Mystic Music.	
4.25 Mystic Music.	4.25 Mystic Music.	
4.55 San Pier Niceto.	4.55 Acclituvine.	

GOING: FIRM (HARD IN PLACES) SIS

2.15 ALLOA BREWERY NOVICES HURDLE (Amateurs; £1,841; 3m 1f) (5 runners)
1 P COUP DE CATHEDRAL 8 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
2 OFFICE DICK 9 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
3 OFFICE DICK 10 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
4 OFFICE DICK 11 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
5 OFFICE DICK 12 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
BETTING: 5-4 Zonda's Slave, 5-1 Lorna's Choice, 5-1 Lorna's Choice, 5-1 Lorna's Choice, 5-1 Lorna's Choice.
1990: PETTUCCINE 11-8 K Johnson (40-65) W A Stephenson 3 m

2.45 CONNOR MALCOLM NOVICES CHASE (Amateurs; £2,581; 2m 190yd) (4 runners)
1 02112 LORNA'S CHOICE 11 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
2 11080 LORNA'S CHOICE 12 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
3 02054 LORNA'S CHOICE 13 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
4 02054 LORNA'S CHOICE 14 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
BETTING: 5-1 Lorna's Choice, 5-1 Lorna's Choice, 5-1 Lorna's Choice, 5-1 Lorna's Choice.
1990: OVER THE FIBS 7-11 C Grant (1-6) W A Stephenson 3 m

3.20 TEACHERS HIGHLAND CREAM SCOTCH WHISKY HANDICAP CHASE (Amateurs; £3,184; 2m 8f) (5 runners)
1 21330 RIVER HOUSE 8 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
2 21330 RIVER HOUSE 9 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
3 21330 RIVER HOUSE 10 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
4 21330 RIVER HOUSE 11 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
5 21330 RIVER HOUSE 12 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
BETTING: 5-4 Lorna's Choice, 5-1 Lorna's Choice, 5-1 Lorna's Choice, 5-1 Lorna's Choice.
1990: RIVERS EDGE 12-12 C Grant (4-6) Dany Smith

3.40 INSULPAK VICTORIA CUP (Handicap; £19,087; 7f) (14 runners)
401 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 4 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
402 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 5 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
403 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 6 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
404 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 7 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
405 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 8 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
406 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 9 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
407 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 10 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
408 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 11 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
409 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 12 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
410 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 13 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
411 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 14 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
412 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 15 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
413 (5) 400-64 SAVANHA BOUND 16 (5) (G. G. G.) (Sir G. Brannan) Lord Harrington 5-40 W R Swabum 58
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